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existence of any civil
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THE U.S. has fought over Darwin since 1825

ness, memory and won't give up love, compassion, co-operation and understanding. *Abernethy's* god is obsolete and straining to outlast progress with his demands for us to fear him, submit to his will, obey him with unquestioning blind faith or burn forever alive in his vengeful barbaric hell. Before never even mentioned the word *humanism* (arg, but it is cool for parents to hear), these children are believing in Judaism, Christianity or Islam when they could simply set a good example and let them form their own beliefs, characters and personalities.

Cy Pessner, Massena, Ala.

INVESTING IN UNIVERSITY

THIS QUESTION FORUM asks the economic value of a university education ("Should or anyone go to university?" Nov. 11) has an obvious answer. No, just everyone is used for a university education. However, an empty that a degree in the humanities is a waste of time because a 40-year degree path can cause income taxes the point. Grade school teaches us the basics. In secondary school, we learn how to learn because we will spend it the rest of our lives learning. University teaches us how to think because critical thinking is necessary for a democracy to function in a world full of misleading advertising and sleazy politicians. I would add university degree is worthwhile even if it didn't earn a nickel more. That

is as true today as it was more than 50 years ago when I graduated Gerald Roper, Thunder Bay, Ont.

WHEN I WAS a high-achieving student in my school, we had state indicators that more than 100,000 people in Canada were missing something. Perhaps a ranking of apprenticeships and skilled trades in the world?

Mark Robinson, Principal,
W.C. Fisher Secondary School, Blind River, Ont.

'JUDICIOUS' FORCE

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, with almost perverse pleasure, the CBC repeatedly made the point that only half of Canadians support Canada's involvement in Afghanistan. (Despite a even less in Quebec, it said.) In contrast, Sean Maloney presents us with well-thought-out reasons for our being there ("The situation," *National*, Nov. 11). While the CBC tries to generate doubt about our chances for success, without explanation of what is meant by the word, Maloney presents the issue in a way that can be debated. It seems apparent to me that Canadians and other NATO forces have already been highly successful in Afghanistan. If we pull out prematurely and turn the country back over to the Taliban, we will likely soon find ourselves back where we were prior to 9/11. Take it or leave, the existence of any civil society depends on the judicious use of force. Just try abolishing the RCMP and see what happens in our civilised country.

Paul Massey, Whitehorse

IN PASSING

Milton Friedman, 94, economist. His theory on inflation changed the world's monetary policies. He argued that by tightly controlling the money supply, inflation could be kept down, allowing producers to plan better and to produce more efficiently. Initially adopted by Washington, this became orthodox thought in the West.

Robert Altman, 81, filmmaker who went off by directing episodes of TV series such as *Lawman*. He was also known for his two overlapping movies in Nashville. He also made the quirky comedies *MASH* (1970) and *The Player* (1992).

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7 DAYS
of news

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF LOUISE ARBOUR

Louise Arbour, the UN's high commissioner for human rights, visited the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun on Monday, where an Israeli attack earlier this month killed dozens. "I've basically had to express my concern and bring some comfort," she told reporters. On Tuesday, she toured the Jewish town of Sderot, a rocket landing a half-mile from her convoy, hitting a chicken place. Later, Arbour visited the scene of the attack and was met with residents and monks hurried by angry workers.

Good news

A securities blanket

Put together the words "Securities" and "regulatory" and you're unlikely to generate much excitement, but the latest endeavor of the chamber of silver tee and thought is worth paying attention to. The Senate committee on banking, trade and consumer has decided to deliver into the murky world of market regulation, starting early next year. Apparently senators were shocked and appalled when Columbia University professor John Coffee told them recently that Canada's system for protecting investors "isn't working," and they're determined to find out what's wrong. A terrible, untested Senate committee is no replacement for an effective ministerial regulator, but at least someone is taking notice.

Royal ascent

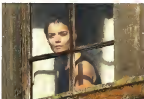
Last week, 36-year-old Royal, the glamorous 13-year-old French politician and member of four, won the leadership of the Socialist party of France—which means that, when the election goes to the polls in 2007, they may very well vote in the country's first female president. This would make France one of several countries to embrace female leadership recently, including Germany, Chile and South Korea. Meanwhile, Canada's Parliament is still mired in old-school sodas: rumors between "dog" jokes and jobs about time-consuming handsets, it's unfortunate that our pundits and elected officials can't seem to get their heads around the idea that a woman can be attractive and a gifted politician.

Out of juice

After an outpouring of disgust from the public and the fumbling of Nicole Brown Simpson and

Ben Goldstein, Fox television and HarperCollins have raised plans for a TV special and book, entitled *911*, which the publisher called O.J. Simpson's "confession" to murdering his ex-wife and her lover. Fox News pundit Bill O'Reilly, who publicly called for a boycott of companies who advertise during the broadcast, was quick to clear credit for the record. "It's a culture war issue," he said, according to *Roller magazine*. "The folks who, and I am the messenger."

FACE OF THE WEEK



KATIE HOLMES gazes rather anxiously from a window of the 13th-century Italian castle where she wed Tom Cruise last Saturday

What a clown

Donald McDonald, the fast-food industry's most prominent muckraker, is not only a welcome in the elementary school classrooms of Newfoundland. Recently, the McDonald's clown had taken to dropping into schools to speak to children and promote fitness and healthy food choices. In exchange, McDonald's offered to subsidize the schools' purchase of gym equipment. This week, the province's education officials seem to have decided that Ronald McDonald—purveyor of fries and Big Macs—is not the ideal role model for healthy living.

Blame Canada, reprise

Stephen Harper once said he can take a rhetorical punch, but Canada is still finding the shoves over his government's scant record on environmental policy. At the UN's climate change conference in Kyoto, delegates mocked his government for rejecting Canada's ambitious targets under Kyoto with a plan postponing meaningful action for nearly 50 years. Then came an editorial featuring the Red-tailed hawk of South Park, who call us "ba-

Bad news

Tuesday, however, residents' supplies were running low as people began to hoard. A new 160-million-watt filtration facility is expected to open in 2008.

Are those real?

Foreign money is a serious problem in this country, according to the Bank of Canada. Documents obtained by the Canadian Press show that counterfeit printing has reached "dangerous levels," and that Canada is among the worst in the world for circulating phony bills. The bank defines "dangerous" as at least 120 counterfeit bills for every million banknotes in circulation. At the moment, the bank estimates there are 217 fake bills per million, down from a record-breaking high of 470 per million in 2004.

It's a zoo out there

Former prime minister Jean Chrétien, now with a lot of time on his hands, went on a much anticipated hunting trip recently. The former leader didn't shoot his gun, according to a *Globe and Mail* report. But when the time came to bag the fallen prey back to camp, Chrétien refused to have drug and the live deer behind an ATV, "a little too fast." In San Francisco, a wildlife shelter at least 30 swimmers and chased 30 others out of a public park lagoon. In Somalia, which has been hit with floods, crocodiles have been floating into villages. They've killed at least one person. A car in Brazil named Nimi is believed to have started with a dog, giving birth this week to what appears to be a litter of met dog hybrids. And in Shikha, all greenhouses have been a kid's book called *And Tango Makes Three*, which tells the tale of a gay penguin couple, Roy and Silo, and the baby penguin they are raising. ■

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CAPITAL DIARY

MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON CONVENTION STUBBLE AND WHY THE ACTION WILL BE AT HOTEL DION

IS MS. IGGY COMING TO 24 SUSSEX?

When Joe Clark became prime minister, his wife, Maureen McKee, kept her name, but when Stephen Harper took up residence at 24 Sussex, Laurence Tasker quickly became Mrs. Harper. Easier to get dinner reservations in Ottawa? Who knows? So what will happen to the names of Liberal leaders' spouses should their names get to 24 Sussex? Lynda Deyden and Marika Velje already go by their husbands' names. Then there are the double-barrelled names. Gerard Kennedy says his wife will continue to use

Jeanette Arsenault-Kennedy, although "she may drop the Kennedy," he jokes (good idea to keep the French!). Bob Rae's people say his wife will still be Arlene Parry Rae (no hyphen even) should she become PM. Polly Rife and Michael Ignatieff's wife, Zsuzsanna Zsuzsar, are the two most vulnerable spouses on the campaign. Zsuzsar says she hasn't thought about what she will do with her last name should her husband eventually become PM. When Ignatieff registered their marriage, he put her last name down on the marriage certificate without asking her. Having different last names, she notes, can pose problems, as when airlines



KEYMAK, STUBBLE SPECIALIST

don't place the couple side by side. If she won't the tradition of her homeland, Hungary, she says she would be called Ms. Ignatieff Zsuzsanna Zsuzsar. What she likely wants to avoid is being known as Ms. Iggy, name sounds a lot like a certain "hi-yo" karaoke-dropping Muppet. *Sophia Dion* says she would be shocked if her wife, Janine Kriebler, changed her name. *Martha Hall* (Finlay's partner, former executive Randy Repasko), will be keeping her last name, and "I think if I did, I'd be a little bit embarrassed." Repasko has preferred to keep a very low profile during the campaign, as "I'd rather watch it all over." Hall

is Martha's maiden name, Finlay is her former husband's name. Her children use the name Finlay. *Susan Kishin* (Finca, *Matinee So-Phie*, a Quebecer from Montreal who recently moved to Montreal) says "Actually we were thinking Steve would become Scott St-Pierre in order to appeal to Quebec voters."

HE'LL HAVE THE PERFECT STUBBLE

As the Liberal leadership convention in Montreal approaches, political pros are weighing in on detail, so much so that it's hard to choose One Gerard Kennedy organizer, Jonathan Noyens, has decided he'll shave on the Tuesday of convention weekend and not afterwards so that his stubble is "perfect" for the big day on Saturday. And the Dion camp wants to make sure all their youth delegates are in one hotel so there's no chance of them being influenced by good old-fashioned party bed hopping. "They can sleep only with other Dion delegates until a leader is chosen, or bring others back to the 'Dion' hotel," quipped one senior organizer.

DON'T SEND HIM A HEBREW KID CARD

When several Jewish groups were working on getting a high-level

cabinet minister to talk to them, the name of Citizenship and Immigration Minister Monte Solberg came up. Part of the drive was to get the MP from Montreal. He was too busy with the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group, but also, Solberg



MONTY SOLBERG Not Jewish

says, "It has been assumed I am Jewish." But don't send him a Hanukkah card just yet. "We know my wife and I are Jewish," says the minister. In fact, "Jew-ish" is a New York game name. "No Jewish organizations will come out and say they won't endorse Solberg as a speaker because they thought he was Jewish, but it was starting to seem odd that several called out of the blue to have him as a guest for functions that have nothing to do with his portfolio. Even non-Jewish groups and individuals have made the assumption that Solberg is Jewish. 'One time it was in a very negative way,' says the minister. "I had somebody attack me and suggested that the reason I supported a position that favoured Israel was because I was Jewish." ■

MS. MCREE or Mrs. Harper? The four leading candidates with their respective spouses.



ON THE WEB: For more Ottawa articles or to contact Mitchel Raphael, visit www.mitchelraphael.net

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What protection does any accused now have?



BARBARA AMIEL

In 1984, a pretty 27-year-old on character in her first year at the University of Virginia went with a gay friend to a party at a friend's style was nothing. Speaking 22 years later on *Dear Ann* NBC, Liz Seymour explained, "He said, you know, maybe they'll let me in. He's like, please, please, will you go with me? I'm like, of course I'll go."

They got separated. She got raped, she says. The stranger had and yet to a tear of the first house and yes to the drink offered to her. "And they're like, We call this our 'house special.' It was like a pale green drink. It was something, you know, stronger than I was used to drinking."

Her bike went robbery. A fat boy put her on his lap and she made her best friend her poetry. Her response was to think "That's kind of weird." In any event, she lost her virginity and consciousness. Next morning she woke up, disoriented and swamped in a bloodstained sheet. The poetry book, William S. Burroughs, was lying face down and didn't go on to thank anything was wrong. He gave her his jacket to wear home.

She went to the local ER but no doctor saw her. She told the girls at her dorm, filed a report with the UVA campus police and met with the dean of students. A week later the 19-year-old Bertha told the university in shock after the dean warned him Seymour's account had serious judicial implications.

Skip ahead 21 years (except for that one couple of years later when she moved the door at her sorority house and the pizza delivery boy was her rapist). The cheerleader, now an event organizer on her second marriage living in Greenwich, Conn., feels a vinyl-sewn envelope in her mailbox. Her sister is suffering from the flu. The program has been on for over a decade. He is making sounds to her.

A two-month exchange of emails follows.

"I always felt a tremendous guilt for the steps in which I imagined my conduct had damaged you and for years too the only solution seemed to be the bottle which worked less and less over time to assuage the guilt." Though he never graduated from college he did, like the lawyer is substantially more advanced.

His apologies are not satisfactory. The renewed contact leaves her traumatized in her writing pool for days. "I would blame anyone and even for hours." Her thoughts clearly she demands be more explicit. Finally, she gets the word "rape" out of him in an email. She telephones the police.

A grand jury indicted. Initially the police pleaded not guilty. Several times he was up to me. But there is the email with its damning admissions. His prey is a woman surrounded by her sorority sisters wearing pink, today's flattering colour of victimhood. She has formed a brand new organization



Her sorority sisters are in court wearing pink, today's flattering colour of victimhood

called *Sisters Together Answering Rape Survivors* (STARS), with a pink Web page.

The police think maybe there was more than one sexual assault. 22 years ago Bertha will "so operate," they will reduce both the testimony and the charge of rape. He has no criminal record and is facing life in prison. Unsurprisingly, he agrees to co-operate. Last week, rape was reduced to aggravated sexual battery and the police began age-appropriate his sentence at maximum of two years, contingent on the investigation.

Bertha's future now depends on his being able to denigrate others. Police resemble buyers looking for the biggest trophy. Perhaps there was a first boy there 22 years ago who has gone on to become a local or national high achiever. When a crime has more than one person involved, plus harassment may be listed on whose head would look on the prosecutor's wall rather than just on the accused.

The Fifth Amendment guarantees due process but also does it has gone fishing. Some American prosecutors take the power of ignorant victimhood. "Suggest they dry and girlfriend from office" is what Nancy Grace, as co-prosecutor herself, put it on her CNN show.

What protection does Bertha or any woman have? The grand jury system, supposed to be the American defendant's friend from an overzealous state, may not even be in the absence of the accused with papers filed anything. The government was there to be less. The defendant's property can be seized before the trial on false affidavits if necessary—by the prosecution. The charged man

may find it a nuisance or credit being intimidated by the prosecution if they don't for him or call in a liaison regarding the payment record. Just how the American Supreme Court is let this happen is a security issue of basically decent people who pride themselves on the rule of law is a security.

And when have our "progressive" views taken off in the robes of other times and places, a girl if it would not go out with a young man without a bribe willing to pay for her life in the assumption that young people need more than their own resources to keep them in the straight and narrow. After the 1960s, our society encouraged the most extreme sexual risk taking, and put the onus entirely on the young male—even as the alleged ambushed "date" rape.

Rape is a serious crime. I realize Mrs. Seymour thinks she was raped and Mr. Bertha thinks he raped. NBC News it was rape and the defendant must certainly say it is rape. But given context and circumstance, alcohol, harassment and naivety, one has real trouble being certain that it was rape. To me it looks more like aggravated sexual battery. **M**

barbara.amiel@maclean.rogers.com



HANOI'S BIG SHOTS

A photo of Ha Long Bay, one of the world's natural wonders, provided the backdrop as Vietnam's President Nguyen Minh Triet greeted world leaders attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit. Ha Long Bay, consisting of almost 2,000

islands (some of which were listed as a World Heritage site in 1994), and is one of Vietnam's most popular tourist destinations. According to myth, the islands were created from pearls and jade spit out by dragons sent from the gods to help protect the land.

1 Russian President Vladimir Putin walks away after saying hello to

2 As he visits for APEC dignitaries to arrive at the ceremony

3 President Gloria Arroyo of the Philippines arrives for her photo op

4 U.S. President George W. Bush walks past one of the islands in

5 Australia's Prime Minister John Howard greets President Triet

6 Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper walks on for cameras

1: ANDREW WHITE/GETTY 2: JIM YOUNG/REUTERS 3: K. FORNABARDI/REUTERS



'Negative press helps in a way. People rally to dispute inaccuracies. I mean, you don't see prostitutes on every corner.'

MELISSA BLAKE, MAYOR OF FORT McMURRAY, TALKS TO KATE FILLION ABOUT THE OIL BOOM, COCAINE, AND HOW SHE'S ACTUALLY NOT A SINGLE MOM

Q You're 36 years old, which sounds young for a mayor, but compared to the rest of the population in Fort McMurray, you're actually—

A Ancient! I know. The average age here is 31.8. And this job has certainly given me a few grey hairs.

Q In the media, Fort McMurray is portrayed as a rough and tumble place where the streets are lined with gold, cocaine and prostitutes. Accurate?

A Not at all. We have quite a few young families, and most people who live here are extremely busy because they work very long hours. But I suppose that's a less interesting angle.

Q Well, a lot of articles have mentioned that more money for addiction treatment is on your wish list. So drugs are a real problem, right?

A It's true that we need more funds for addiction treatment, and that's a concern. I think because wages are relatively high, people have more disposable income, and that may make them more likely to get involved with drugs. It's also true that many people are here without their families, and the lack of family support may also contribute to drug use.

Q Since you were elected two years ago, you've been saying the massive social needs projects are actually creating significant issues for the regional municipality of Wood Buffalo and particularly for Fort McMurray.

A The issue is not growth itself, but the pace of growth. Our growth rate is eight to nine per cent a year, which is very over heated, and that rate has been holding steady for six years. In 1996, the population of Fort McMurray was 34,000, and today it's 64,700. We also have what we call a shadow population: a significant number of people come into town for work. And although the number fluctuates, there are currently about 13,000 people living in work camps. Now, many of the camps consist of trailers, with several people sharing a trailer, and some of them are as close as hotels. I moved here when I was 12, and there have been work camps as long as I can remember, though they weren't always inhabited year round.

Q How has the place changed in the past 24 years?

A In some ways, not much, in other ways, very much. It is more diverse now, because there are people from all over the world here. At last count 40 different languages were being spoken. Obviously, it's much larger now than it was when I was growing up. And there's a Wild West, that came in seven or eight years ago. But it's still just a beautiful place to live, because of our incredible location, with rivers and hills. And the people are still warm and friendly.

Q But how do you create a sense of community in a place where there are so many newcomers and the population is transient?

A That's a big challenge. Interestingly, negative press helps in a way—people rally

around to dispute inaccurate depictions of our community. Just to give one recent example, Gladstone printed an article about how much prostitution there is here, and referred to the downtown as grey and rundown and contracted of under black.

People were upset on a number of different levels, because it really did not reflect what it's like to live here. Instead, you don't walk down the street and see prostitution on every corner. What we have are a lot of transient workers living in the Yellow Pages, but that would be true in many cities. The reality is that this is a great place to live.

Q What are your biggest problems right now?

A They're all related to municipal debt and quality of life. We simply don't have the infrastructure we need, given our population and the pace of industrial development. Roads, housing, hospitals, schools, recreational facilities, waste water treatment plants—everything we have is built for a much smaller population, and we have spent as much as we as a municipality are allowed to spend.

The province recently granted us a \$150-million interest-free, capital-free loan to help complete a waste water treatment plant, but of course we now have a higher debt load. What we've had to do is the equivalent of mixing out your credit card, but we will need close to \$2 billion over the next five years in

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order to provide the basic services people elsewhere in the province take for granted. Obviously we cannot come up with that amount by increasing municipal taxes.

Q It seems bizarre that a community that's generating so much wealth should actually be cash-poor. Similarly, it's strange that you have a relatively large homeless population. Just how many homeless people are there?

A At the last count was more than 400. Some of it is related to the cost of living and to our housing shortage, which means that rents are extremely high. Some people are driven here by the promise of jobs and high wages, but they arrive and can't find a place to live, or in fact don't have the skills necessary to get the kinds of jobs they thought they would. And some are here due to the more traditional reasons of addiction or mental health issues.

Q You've tried to slow the pace of development by asking the Energy Utilities Board to delay approvals for multi-billion-dollar expensive projects. That's a bold and aggressive strategy, but how successful has it been?

A Not very. Recently, the EUB declined, citing the problems we face, and pointed out that there is a window of opportunity for the province to address them.

Q Forcefully tossing the load back on the province's case?

A Yes.
Q And the province hasn't exactly been a prodigal son. Ralph Klein even said recently that infrastructure projects should wait until the oil money runs out and there's more affordable.

A It doesn't make a lot of sense, because the expansion plans are very limited, yet we do not have the infrastructure even to support the people who are already here. We can't really wait to be able to flush our oil out or drive on safe roads. And because of our location, there's always been what we call a Fort McMurray factor, where we set a provision of 50 to 60 per cent added on to construction projects.

The other issue we face is that we are coping with the oil industry for labour, and the kinds of fees we can pay, compared to those paid for working on an oil sands megaproject—we're not exactly even matched.

Q Speaking of safe roads, why does the war between Edmonton and Fort McMurray have such a high death rate?

A It's true that every year people are killed on Highway 63. Part of it is simply that it's the only road to Edmonton, so it's very crowded. And part of it is just bad driving habits. People get impatient driving the hundreds of miles, and they start taking risks,

pulling out to pass, or speeding. But the province and the federal government have committed to spending the money to fix the highway, which will help—when it's completed, which could be up to five years from now.

Q You must be happy that by the end of the month, Alberta will have a new and potentially more responsive premier.

A The difficult thing now is that it's hard to get much accomplished before that person takes office.

Q An astronomical amount of natural gas will be required to power the extraction operations of all the oil sands projects announced so far. Joe Dinning, the first minister in the provincial leadership race, has said that if he's elected, he'd consider building a nuclear reactor to fuel the conversion. What do your constituents think about that?

A I think many people are nervous about the idea of having a nuclear plant close to where for the first time many Canadians would be nervous. They've heard all the negatives and may not completely understand the potential positives.

Personally, I am committed to preserving the environment, I drive a hybrid, and I am interested in hearing more about what this would mean and what the real risks and benefits might be. My mind is open. Not that, at the municipal level, we will actually have much say over this.

Q Fort McMurray has a reputation as a smelter, smelter place. Is being a smelter a liability, politically?

A I don't feel it's been a hindrance. Let's put it this way: It hasn't prevented me from doing the same kinds of things our previous mayor did.

Q But after losing the election, he said, "Ladymayor don't go over well in industrial towns." Was there any truth in that remark?

A No! I think in some ways Fort McMurray is quite progressive. A lot of what you read about gender imbalance and gender issues here is, quite frankly, just not true. The imbalance is only about 10 per cent.

Q Do you think it matters to your constituents that you have a child and are so married?

A No, actually. I think they care about whether I can do the job, and so far, they seem to think I can. But I'd like to correct a misimpression. I'm not a single mom! I have the most amazing premier, and I could not do what I do without him, as I have told journalists again and again.

Seeing myself referred to as a single mom really has more than anything else, made me picky about the media. Now, as it happens,

he's my favourite one. I thought to another and we did get engaged last Christmas. We've been too busy to get married but it will happen some day.

Q Are you planning to run for a second term?

A Well, I've said you until this year. But I haven't accepted that I had to go to sleep by this point in my first term, which is disappointing and frustrating. To make progress, and to improve the quality of life here, we are dependent on increased funding. The province's answer so far has been that it's unfair to focus on means policy over another.

But we are growing faster than any other municipality in Alberta or even in Canada, and the oil sands developments are creating revenues and jobs for the whole province and



I think in some ways Fort McMurray is quite progressive. A lot of what you read about gender issues is, frankly, just not true.

in fact the whole country.

Q You once told a reporter, "I'm not a public animal. Truth be told, I'm an introvert." Has being mayor changed you?

A I've adapted to the demands of the job. But I'm still happy lying on the couch at home, watching *Cartoon* for the 18th time with my son, because it brings him so much pleasure.

Q What's more difficult to deal with: your three-year-old, or Ralph Klein?

A Well, neither one of them leaves me red-



IN CONTRAST to more complex, devilish figures, Goodale has those dependable qualities we often claim to crave from politicians

* PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE YEAR *

HE'S SURVIVED AND THRIVED. RALPH'S THE BEST IN THE HOUSE.

Dedicated, eloquent, his peers chose him above all others

BY JOHN GRUBBS • Ralph Goodale is not the sort of politician who generates a lot of chatter. He lacks the flair of a mystery agent, says Michael Ignatieff, or Stephen Harper's ideological qualms, or Jack Layton's partisan animosity. By contrast, Goodale has those calm, dependable qualities we often claim to crave from our politicians, just before turning our gaze back toward more complex and divisive figures.

But Ralph Goodale is the best MP in Canada according to his colleagues, who voted him the honoree in an Ipsos Reid survey conducted for *Maclean's*, *Canada's* and the *Dominion Institute*. And his story is gripping in its own way—a classic Canadian survival saga. He's a farm boy from Saskatchewan, Liberal, a pure Prairie speaker that often feels as vulnerable as the wolf he. He suffered humbling setbacks that almost ended his political career in the 1980s, but rode the victories that followed to very near the pinnacle of federal power. Then, after doggedly building and rebuilding a career based on

personal credibility, he saw that previous rejections for incoherence and incompetence pay off in a gradual but in last January's election. He's the enduring type: Goodale has the frame of a man who'd be hard to have around when you need to move a sofa had up a flight of stairs. He's in the gym as much as in the car, has bench pressed 350 lb., and, regrettably once lived the end of the Mura he was about to end in a Hagen prison. (He never confirms nor denies the legend.) Asked about the essence of his appeal, friends often use Goodale's rocky five-foot-seven and a half build as a metaphor for his character. Stable

Not to be knocked off course. "Some people, you seem to be able to tell their values just to look at them," says David Herli, an other Liberal from Saskatchewan and one-time top advisor to Paul Martin. "Ralph's one of those people."

It's hopeless to ask Goodale to sum up what's made him an MP's MP in a few words. Or even quite a few. He tends to go on, and to equivocate. But he can spin a telling yarn from the campaign trail, one that shows how hard it can be to run as a centrist Liberal in a province where populists of the left and right are dominant. There was the time back in 1979, when Goodale was waging what proved to be a losing battle to hold the seat he'd won in 23-year-old rodeo in 1974.

It was Jean Chrétien, a popular minister in Prime Trudeau's cabinet, lost the struggle with him in Saskatchewan, but even Chrétien couldn't draw a crowd in Willow Bunch, in Logan. So the next evening for a planned rally. But the bus across the street was packed for a Stanley Cup playoff game. "So we were over, shook hands between periods, and Chrétien got up on a table and gave a speech," Goodale says. "And we won every Willow Bunch poll in that election."

Goodale lost his seat anyway, as the Liberals stumbled from power. Worse, he failed to win it back in the 1986 campaign that returned Trudeau to office. It was the final test of Goodale's ability to take a punch, up

to then, he'd been something of a golden boy. Born in 1940, he grew up on a farm in a grain belt between Wilcox and Regina, a dot on the map so inconsequential Saskatchewan that it's now the town where Cancer Care is. His parents didn't desire to support a party, but Goodale liked the Liberals from an early age. They seemed to him closer to what was in the air, somehow related to the silence of the Kennedys, and the mood that would ignore Trudeau's era.

Goodale had a confidante of young Saskatchewan Liberals in the 1965 Liberal leadership convention in Ottawa. Enter the farm boy, he backed Joe Gosnell, Lester B. Pearson's agriculture minister and the only candidate who emphasized rural life. But, on the first ballot, before voting on Trudeau's camp on the second. Four years later, he graduated top of his class from University of Saskatchewan law school and seemed to have a lucrative career ahead of him. But politics beckoned. He'd caught the eye of the document Saskatchewan Green of the day, Otto Lang. Trudeau's eager justice minister. He went to Ottawa to work on Lang's staff in 1973, then came home to run, and win, the next year. Lang was a mentor, and Allan Rock, the Trudeau minister and Nova Scotia chairman who combined shrewdness on the Hill with attentiveness to his regional base, was an inspiration. "Nobody can match the focus, agility, clever mind of Allan

THE WORKHORSE

Paul Stoba admits to drinking three or four cups of coffee a day. Stoba is in his 50s—area riding just the name.

he's higher Machiavelli. "He should be stuck in the House," says John Corbin, who's worked for the Liberal-Canadian's hardworking MP, according to his colleagues—for most of his 15 years on the Hill.

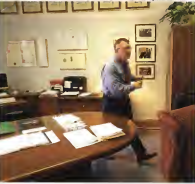
There's a Tim's across the street from his Mississauga South office—a permanent temptation he's had to resist. He drinks his coffee black, and downs 30 to 32 a day.

How else to fuel his insatiable drive? Stoba, 58, has launched more 40 projects than her's bills and motions and, as a backbencher in Paul Martin's 14th parliament, attended a staggering 154,481 meetings in the House—more than any other MP. He has spent Christmas vacations writing books on federalist syndrome, and wedding universities at international conferences. He has 11thousand a bill he believed could permit human cloning, and staged debate backbenchers against same-sex marriage. "He doesn't have to be the pitcher—he's prepared to play second base," says Liberal MP Derek Lee. "Stoba prefers more early mornings. He likes to grab outstages," he says, after work.

In Ottawa, the former chartered accountant kept a book from the Hill. "I walk back to my little hotel room and there's a bed and a bathroom and that's good," he says. He met at 5 or 6 a.m. and doesn't return until after David Robertson's night shift. Some days—when preparing to be heard a bill with amendments, say, he did with his own party's legislative technology legislation some years ago—Stoba will stay in his office until the next house. "The man works when he's sleeping," says his 24-year-old daughter, Whitney, whose mother's rule of 15 a.m. yawns in a notebook by his bed.

Twice Stoba has watched a bill he's introduced sinking working bills on a school week where a lot of passing is slow business, he says, will likely do with that government. And yet, though such misadventures be countless, he continues grinding out messages. Nicholas Folger

HE LEARNED to combine shrewdness in Ottawa with attentiveness to regional interests



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GOODALE WAS inspired by deficits, assuaged by a Quebec visit in provincial politics

'HE TAKES HIS CREDIBILITY AND REPUTATION SERIOUSLY. HE NEVER WANTS TO GET CAUGHT OUT.'

in MacBachan," he says. "In terms of House management, he had amazing ability to think five moves ahead."

It was the dawn of a new political era. In Watergate's wake, scandal-driven politics and gonzo journalism took hold. In 1977, when television cameras were allowed in the House, everything changed. "QP turned into a contest to see who can provide that seven-second clip that some network decides to use on the news that evening," grins Goodale, who doesn't play that game terribly well. His rhetoric came to the aid of a less robust line. Listened to in full—which, of course, nobody did before MP's on

Radio (as a CBC Radio announcer) "It's extremely eloquent," says Helle. "But his speeches are too long. He takes his credibility and reputation seriously, so there's a need for precision—he never wants to be caught out. All the qualifiers are in there."

Through the 1980s, it seemed all Goodale's efforts to learn what it takes to be an MP wouldn't amount to much. After losing in 1979 and 1980, he tried to revive Saskatchewan's broken-down provincial Liberal party but he was basically a one-man show, serving a term in the lone Liberal MLA in the legislature. A bid to go back to Ottawa in 1988 failed, and Goodale tried working in

insurance, even moving to Calgary to pursue his own career. When a Saskatchewan Liberal defector tried to lure him back in 1991, Goodale initially replied: "I said, no, no. He says: 'Reckon there. Done this. Got the Tabern'."

But he relented, winning Regina's Wildrose riding in the 1993 vote and every one since. By then he was different: not a polemic figure—terrified by deficit, assuaged by his Quebec stint in provincial politics. Even though he headed Martin's in 1996 leadership race, Chrétien named him agriculture minister. It looked like a shakedown, as the Liberals moved to dismantle the historical subsidies for Prairie farmers. But Goodale wrangled a plump compensation package for them, even as an act of debt-fighting restraint. He was, and is, a serious, steady, steady kind of conservative, that dourness he Regins and Ottawas haven't made him lose a first guy. Goodale's "just look at those oxygen inventors he works"

Goodale went on to serve in several important ministries and House leader under Chrétien, but as Martin's pop, never-tracked cabinet's top tier still, after the speaker's office exploded, Chrétien tapped him to codify up Public Works—not only was Goodale viewed as beyond reproach, his old-school House demeanor deflected many opposition salvoes. When Martin named Chrétien as PM, Goodale became finance minister. He was finally, truly on the big time. How big? Well, a high point for him was an intimate gathering of G8 finance ministers in London, when he got the chance to hear Nelson Mandela tell the story of his release from prison.

If being finance minister landed him in jolly company, it also put him squarely in the

line of fire. In the weeks before the fall of Martin's minority last December, rumour swirled about whether the government would crack down on income trusts. Goodale revealed in late November that the trusts would not, in fact, be subjected to new laws, but some analysts had turned quick profits by investing in the trusts the day after his announcement. He was pilloried for refusing to call an independent investigation into the possibility of a high-level leak.

But far worse was yet to come. Midway through the December January election campaign, the RCMP revealed they were investigating the possibility of a constitutional leak.

HERLE SAYS THAT OTTAWA HASN'T MADE GOODALE LESS OF A FARM GUY: 'LOOK AT THOSE SWEATERS'



GOODALE WAS pilloried for refusing to call a probe into the income trust affair

It was a body blow—the lowest moment in his career. The NDP began a "Ralph Watch" then website, predicting his resignation. But Martin stuck by him, and for that, Harper is personally indebted. Questioning Goodale's personal culpability, casting the Martin move broadly on Liberals. "Challenging Ralph Goodale's credibility was a losing strategy," says MP Bill Graham, now in retirement. As for Goodale, he will not discuss the episode in detail, since the RCMP have never told him the investigation was over. He has not told his wife, who he got to get through it "winning his riding again by a large margin helped."

Personal vindication, perhaps, but the

Liberals lost the election. Coughlins watched an assessment as Goodale's spring break. He went from a finance minister's car and driver to riding the bus to Parliament Hill. From his apartment "He took me to the airport," observes Liberal MP John Gledhill. "His ability to reinvent himself is amazing." Goodale attributes his resilience in part to the support of his highly political wife, Pamela, now retired after a long career as a teacher and principal in Regins schools. Unlike his class, hers has roots in Saskatchewan. Liberalism grew back to the retired Jimmy Gledhill machine of the 1970s and '80s. They were married in 1986, became a children, and live as a Regins home where Goodale oversees his self-watching and land keeping in the west.

He is just 52, young for

MR. CONGENIALITY

MP Peter Stoffer never calls anyone's liar, especially in the House of Commons. Rather, he says "Mr. Speaker, what just came out of that member's mouth originated from the mouth of a north-bound cow," or, "If such were to stand, it would be embarrassing." "I never get angry," he explains from his



Saskatchewan riding in Nova Scotia. "I completely avoid that and move on to what my constituents want me to talk about." Other parliamentarians agree. Stoffer, 59, was noted the most congenial MP and the one best representing his constituents.

These \$7,000 constituents (in typical areas 15 riding areas), a military reserve and a high-growth suburban region—were their NDP MP (telling about a round of votes). "From student loans to stress grants to any member's job is doing my duty," he says. "I don't make requests for hockey teams to Regins." He says "Veteran's affairs, culture and Canada's role in Afghanistan are closest to his heart." He shows in early at 5 a.m., and some days work until 11 p.m. Stoffer—who doesn't use a computer—makes up to call a day to every Canadian who contacts him on his speed in the local newspapers. "The Internet is a hell," he says. "If you've got a problem, let's talk."

But Stoffer notes that anyone who comes to his Ottawa office has a good reason. "If someone in the House, you're not legally a politician. But most importantly," he laughs, "your name will show the Peter Stoffer of Regins." His chair often will be adorned with a woman's patch, and a 1998 long gown, 2,000 buttons and 400 long gown. "I used to live in the Yukon territory, and everybody hung their hats on the wall," he says.

Stoffer's biggest desire to leave, though, is as founder of the second All-Party Party, a celebration for MPs, senators and all 1,000 full staff—excluding postal workers, cleaners and dress-makers—on freedom in achieving freedom. He says as a creep, everyone's social in his office in 1997, but first year in politics. "I got elected by the shortest margin," he recalls. "They keep saying me back." Party on. Carly Gault

PARLIAMENT'S WALKING ENCYCLOPEDIAS

On the surface, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and NDP MP Bill Blaikie don't have much in common. Blaikie, 55, is an NDP veteran who has 27 years in the House.

But Blaikie, a former Progressive Conservative, a 1970s rising star who when he worked as a minister with the United Church. Across the floor, and on the other end of the political spectrum, an Harper.

At 6'4", a young Conservative prime minister with a background in economics who once headed the right-wing think tank, the National Citizens Coalition. But both men share a reputation as intellectual in a profession where many have built careers on theatrics and charisma alone. Their 30,000



comes in large part from their keen understanding of the issues of the day. And along with Liberal MP Ralph Goodale, they finished in a three-way tie for most knowledgeable parliamentarians.



Harper is often described, by critics and followers alike, as a people's work. To some, he comes across as rigid in his thinking, to others he is rational and unswerving integrity. "My strengths are not open or passive," he noted during the last election cycle. Harper reads history and economics (and it's writing a book on the history of hockey), and his unadorned prose translates into his political life. According to biographer William Johnston, he once

made a friend, "I think about strategy but I don't do it."

Blaikie does similar dedication, spending long hours reading just about everything that comes across his desk. As

the longest-serving NP and dean of the House, he has many issues come and go and resources all over again. "I think there's a need to read for a resource," he says, "an intellectual necessity." Blaikie has changed since 1978, and not all for the better, he says. In part, because of the emphasis on Question Period, "there isn't a political problem that you can't solve by knowledge," he says. Blaikie and Goodale's success shows that's still a place, and a need, for big brains on the Hill. Colin Campbell

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, OF THE NATIONAL POST; PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, OF THE NATIONAL POST

HOW HE DID IT: Heavy half (544 of 508) of the MPs in Parliament participated in the survey assessing their peers in six categories: hardest working, best at organizing constituents, most collegial, most knowledgeable on the issues of the day, and best overall performer. To ensure parity with a higher participation rate, not all members of the categories were split based on votes received from within and from outside their party. Points were then assigned based on receiving a top-five ranking in each category. The best MP was listed on combined total points. Full methodology at: www.globe-and-mail.com

TOUCHING OFF OUR CHINA CRISIS

A Canadian dissident in jail puts stress on our \$35-billion relationship

BY GRABAR GALLIE • One warm Friday last March, after a hearty breakfast of fish cakes and salad, Huseyn Gali climbed into a car for a ride across the goddamned streets of Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. There, as the leader of a family visit with his relatives, the 38-year-old from Burlington, Ont., was off to a nearly passport office to extend the family's tourist visa—an errand that should have taken no more than an hour. So he left with few parting words, waving to his wife Kamola, Telendibeva and leaving his children before setting off down the road.

That last glimpse of her husband remains etched in Telendibeva's mind. "He was wearing a dark suit, with a blue shirt," she recalls from her home back in Burlington. "Nothing special, just a suit like any other man in the city. But I've dreamed of him many times. And when I do, I see him in those clothes."

The rest of the day she'd prefer to forget. An hour passed without word from Gali, followed by another and another. Finally, around 10:30 p.m., her brother and father, who had accompanied Gali to the passport office, re-

turned with the news: Gali had spent much of his young life conspiring for the rights of his people in their Chinese-occupied homeland. He had fled the region in 1994, eventually coming to Canada as a refugee and obtaining citizenship here in 2001. But Beijing had been pursuing Uyghur activists abroad just as intently as at home. If Gali believed his Canadian passport would protect him, he was tragically mistaken.



'CHINA MAKES UP ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING TO USE AGAINST MY HUSBAND'



GALI AND Telendibeva in Uzbekistan, days before he was apprehended by authorities



turned to her parents' house with shattering news. Gali had been taken away by Uzbek authorities who claimed to be apprehending a "fugitive" on behalf of the Chinese government. An ethnic Uyghur from the Xinjiang

Uyghurs, it turns out, have enmeshed with China and other neighbouring countries to arrest each other's fugitives, and recently they've the Chinese sense disapproved by Gali's Canadian papers. "Six weeks after his

arrest, he was deported to China, where he is now imprisoned on accusations of terrorism. The charges are preposterous, says Telendibeva. "China makes up anything and everything to use against my husband." But she's intrigued by the name. "We don't know about his health," says the 38-year-old. "We don't know whether he's alive or not because nobody's been allowed to see him. It's horrible."

Gali is not the first Canadian to encounter trouble while travelling abroad. But the extraordinary circumstances of his imprisonment have thrust the issue and part-time student into the national spotlight, making him the improbable centerpiece of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's top last week to an APEC summit in Vietnam and the centre of a diplomatic mission. Harper's intention on raising Gali during a meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao and the Chinese to cancel the marriage—China denies the link—remains and hear out Harper's letter. So

KEVIN MAZUR

Harper was using Gali's plight to drive their point home. "At present, we are a massive trade deficit with China," he told reporters after his meeting with Hu. "The fact of the matter is that respecting human rights hasn't opened older old man either, so obviously we don't think you get anywhere by shoving your values."

How frequent has China's behaviour been? As of this writing, Beijing had refused numerous requests from Canadian officials for a consular visit to guarantee under the 1981 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Nor were they willing discuss the case at the political level, at least, not until last week's fraught meeting between Harper and Hu. In fact, Beijing didn't even bother to notify a had taken a Canadian citizen because it refused to recognize his citizenship, says Chris MacLeod, Gali's lawyer at Hamilton, Ont. That too is a violation of international treaties China has signed.

As a result, Gali's whereabouts remain something of a mystery. The only ones the family makes comes from his elder sister, Heyrigal, who still lives in Xinjiang and

who fears the Chinese authorities are listening in on her communications. "She has to go out and make her calls from a street phone," says Telendibeva, adding that the secret information Heyrigal does provide is not encouraging. Shortly after Gali was arrested, family members were told he had been accused of the assassination of a Chinese official in Beijing in March 2000,

THE UYGHUR community (below, left) is largely reinvigorated



TRADE WITH CHINA ISN'T WORTH MUCH WITHOUT TRUST, SAY CRITICS

charges for which he would likely face the death sentence. Then, in September, the family learned he had received a 10-year prison sentence in China, and was being held in Kashgar, a large city near the Kyrgyz border. This case came into focus, though, after Heyrigal heard rumours from local police officers that her brother was in a police facility more than 1,000 km east of Kashgar, in the city of Urumqi. The prolonged guessing game

has alarmed MacLeod. "It leads me to wonder whether there's something they don't want us to see," he says. "We're very concerned that he's come to some sort of harm."

In the meantime, a variety of commentators have cast doubt on the case against Gali, based on his own track record and the relatively peaceful history of the Uyghurs in China. A population of about 8.5 million moderate Muslims who speak a distinctive

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'IF I SMILED AT SOMEONE,' SAYS KADEER, 'THEY WOULD TAKE AWAY MY MEALS'

Turkic language, the Uyghur community is hostile to an active but largely non-violent movement to restore the independence of their homeland. The region they call East or Xinjiang was briefly enjoyed autonomy after 1949, before the Chinese occupied it in 1949 and officially absorbed it six years later. In recent years, says Mahanad Toka, president of the Uyghur Canadian Association, the Chinese have treated the Uyghur movement as a threat to their control over a territory rich in oil and minerals. "They've banned all the things that define us," he says. "Our religion, our language, our right to associate. All we're asking for is the right to self-determination, to decide our own political future. Without independence, we won't be able to preserve the culture."

Cell's part in all this has been relatively benign, adds Toka, the prisoner's long-term friend. He fled China in the early 1990s after being charged with trying to start a political party, but was never implicated in violence or extremist activity. Then, during a stay in neighboring Kyrgyzstan in 1998, he was investigated for distributing blanketed threat against the Chinese government. The report, however, was dismissed by Kyrgyz authorities to be harmless religious teaching without basic tenets of the religion, and Cell was quietly released.

As for the widening accusation of political murder, the Chinese have not named the assassin or official or disclosed any of the evidence of his death. Still, the Cell family has offered documentary proof he was in Istanbul at the alleged time of the killing—falsely claiming a missing husband that day by Turkish government officials. "What they're

life in a solitary cell with dirty prison clothes. "I wasn't allowed to look at another prisoner. If I smiled at someone, they would take away my meals."

Kadeer was freed last year amid heavy diplomatic pressure from Washington, on the eve of an official visit to China by Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Now an advocate for Uyghurs abroad, she's urging Ottawa to intervene decisively on Cell's behalf, citing her own case as proof of the value of political intervention. The gravity of the charges against Cell—and the length of his requested sentence—suggest he may face even harsher treatment than she did, Kadeer warns.

This growing sense of urgency may explain why Harper decided to step into the fray. Three weeks ago, the Prime Minister quietly met with Toka and MacLeod at a downtown Toronto hotel, hearing out their case and requesting other Toka have's

claiming he did it basically responsible," says MacLeod. "He would have to be in two countries at once, or two countries inside of an hour." To Toka, the idea of Cell carrying out an assassination is absurd. "Move it, Haseyin Cell is a family man," he says. "He has worked to promote dialogue between religious faiths, not extremism. The things he is accused of are not in his nature."

The immediate question is how long Cell can endure prison conditions said to range from bleak to outright brutal. Kadeer, a Uyghur activist who once served in China's national parliament, spent eight years in an Urumqi jail for giving newspaper clippings to foreigners (the stories were deemed "sensitive"). Police interrogated her for a week when she first arrived, says the 60-year-old grandmother, who was later released and now lives near Washington. "They kept me awake for the first three days before I finally collapsed. They used to shift of people who demanded I confess, telling me I had to name other people." Speaking through a translator, Kadeer recalls her jailers beating two young Uyghur men bloody while she looked on; they said they'd continue the assault until she co-operated. They also forced her to sign confessions she was unable to understand, she says, before leaving her to a



KADEER spent eight years in a Urumqi jail, Uyghur children in Olan, Xinjiang (above)

cell. With five children, including a disabled seven-year-old son, she subsists on social assistance and desperately needs her husband's help. The couple's youngest child, a boy named Zubeyr, was born last August and has yet to see his father.

The Prime Minister hasn't said whether the family's woes justify affording a global power, or risking a \$35 billion trade relationship—at least not publicly. But if nothing else, his intervention suggests a time-honoured action is regarding its place in Canadian foreign policy, that some prisoners can't be ignored, and some values should never be measured in dollars and cents. ■



FORGET THE SUOETENLAND. LET'S MOVE ON

At last week's meeting in Quebec City for legislators from NATO countries, Canada and other nations fighting in southern Afghanistan pleaded for fellow member countries to commit troops, something the other nations are reluctant to do. For instance, German Bundestag member Holmut Koidzheim announced that Germany "is not used to other countries being as anxious to have German troops on their soil."

CHRYSLER
INSPIRATION COMES STANDARD

WHEN TECHNOLOGY MEETS STYLE,
THE RESULTS ARE SPECTACULAR.



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DESPITE its amiable aims, the Trudeau organization was tough and businesslike

NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS

No coronations, Liberal leadership victories are actually savage affairs

BY PETER C. MEUNIER

Not since 1968, when the party reluctantly assisted Pierre Elliott Trudeau as its leader, have the Liberals demonstrated that politics at its highest level is a fever in the blood. That far distant convention, held in Ottawa's Civic Centre, in daily remembrance as a royal procession predicated to glory, with the right contenders serving at more potent cautions in the dramatic denouement of the onset and those philosopher kings. In fact, it was bloodbath, a weary affair that took four ballots before Lucky Pierre squeaked out a chair edge 51 per cent of the delegates' votes.

Next week's convention, with an equal field of eight contenders, each hardened by pulch of negative baggage, and backed up by Michael Ignatieff as the heretical dissenter, promises some or parallel parallel that the only ease that comes is that, just as for Trudeau, victory for the next Liberal leader will be carved out of the mayhem on the convention floor.

Trudeau went into that contest with about the same number of delegates as Michael Ignatieff's solid first ballot finish last year, because he was such an enigmatic creature in dress, women, cars and behavior, his victory scarcely seemed credible. To most Liberals, he was an untamed, unseemingly presence. Whenever Trudeau's candidacy was mentioned, it was dismissed as a bad joke. ("How could anybody who could hit his forehead like a Roman emperor ever become a Conservative prime minister?")

Then, at now, delegates were on the hunt for a candidate who could re-establish public trust in their party, which had been plagued by scandal, and, more to the point, restore the party's confidence in itself.

Mentored by political veterans who didn't know what couldn't or should not be done, Trudeau's organization attracted a swarm of hot young women, including Glen Clark, Marie Shum, Jennifer Rice and Alison Goodwin, as well as Gordon Gibson, Brian Plummer and Jean Pierre Goy. Despite its amiable aims, the inner core of the Trudeau organization was tough and

businesslike. Every step of the campaign was plotted on a critical-path flow chart, each delegate's loyalty and winning point bid tabulated by computers. There was an active "war room," to which the organization's special ops girls in clinging dresses who had infiltrated the other candidates' organizations came to be debriefed. The Trudeau women commissioned by politicians they kept hidden in their bedrooms. I watched more than one delegate, mouth hanging open, mesmerized by the spectacle of a Trudeau beauty whispering into her dead phone.

It was the first political convention with market television coverage. Because the TV screen ran optimally on news channels, only once at a time—and Trudeau had opened most of the hour—he was almost constantly on the air, locked in the halo of a history of hand-held light bulbs that made him seem larger than life, his polished face taking on an incandescent glow. Unlike Ignatieff in this campaign, he was careful about not backing any policy options. Asked about the threat of the monarchy in Canada, he shot back: "When I was in Saskatoon I covered a very lively crowd, so I feel very warm toward the monarchy."

Trudeau typically maintained his inner repose, refusing to lead himself to the gravitational pull of the convention. And for more he held back, the more the crowd warmed a piece of him. "I made him get a haircut!" boasted an excited assistant. "What if I force him to come by?" a vibrant young patron asked her husband, who was standing near me. He gave her a look of sheer disgust, but when Trudeau appeared on the national news and he impulsively hugged her wife.

The parade of 40,000 Trudeau banners soon ran out, and 10,000 more were ordered. Only hours after Bob Waters' organization laid ground buttons that read "This Whitehouse."

TRUDEAU HAD A 'WAR ROOM' WITH PRETTY YOUNG GIRLS IN CLINGING DRESSES WORKING AS SPIES

the Trudeau girls designed restrictive tips that precluded "It's Spring?"

The candidates' speeches were true to form. Up first was Paul Martin, the party veteran who throughout his campaign displayed the conviction that ideologies and issues were minor diversions to the main business of politics: the handshake. He needed to be stage and he had it, an enormous white-curtain backdrop and delivered a "do not reject your man" speech about himself, posture of a politician. "Democracy is not a system where truth is implemented by parliamentary things."

Next up was Waters, then a leading con-

traditor. Handsome, confident, a touch of Bushy hair, Waters in his voice and looking very much like a colouring book version of the person he was, he made a few marks in pre-1982 French, and ended with the ringing declaration that only democracy is satisfied with itself. Bob Waters was the most settled man in the hall.

Paul Hellyer's charming oratory was led by Judy LaMarsh in a pair of knee-high boots, vigorously waving a white banner. He had the misfortune of having the body language of a soprano in Katerina's history, his shoulder blades pulling his back down, still even as he came straight through board Allan MacGregor from Cape Breton came on looking hot and nervous, constantly muttering his words in a manner as if he were like the star of the meeting '88 run in the old Humphrey Bogart film, *The Hardcore Case*. He was led by a hand that consisted of every adolescent hugger in the country, which lent his good speech a melancholy air. Eric Sarnes followed the ready eyes coming back from Queen's University.

Suddenly, the tide of photographers, reporters and TV men around Trudeau's box lifted briefly to allow him an entrance. As if pulled by a single string, his campaign signifiers were lifted in every part of the crowded arena. (At Trudeau's suggestion, the signs were strategically placed through out the Civic Centre and passed out to newspaper reporters at widely spaced intervals, so that it looked as if the entire audience was this in contrast. His opponents opened to allow into the hall Trudeau people who couldn't get entrance passes. Instead of applauding, the delegates made a collective "ahhh," like the silent sea during high tide: respect after doing his war work. Although the demonstration had been carefully planned, a local spontaneous, as though the Liberal party invited its pre-1982 comrades at the convention moment. Trudeau's return to the stands for precisely five minutes, then moved toward the platform. Trudeau's was not a momentary speech, but its impact was palpable.

Before the first vote, a horde of Trudeau women, wearing bubble-stage miniskirts, converged on the Civic Centre, led by a thousand eyes. "They're learning about politics," somebody nearby explained. It took four hand-thrust ballots before John Turner's 131. A wave of policemen came to guard the winner onto the stage. Pierre Elliott Trudeau's face, which might have been carved in alabaster to command some serene domain of the Canadian, was made like, a hunched line in the future, bordered with hope.

WHOSE FREEDOMS?

For once, a Quebec debate on minorities isn't about language

BY BENJAMIN AUBIN • Nobody was it coming, and nobody really wanted it to happen, but Quebec is now engaged in an uneasy debate over "reasonable accommodations"—one for what concerned those religious minorities should be expected to make when they choose to live in this province, or, rather.

With the media stirring the pot, and a provincial election on the horizon, the debate spilled into the political arena this week. Mario Dumour, head of the struggling Action démocratique du Québec, opened his, blaming Premier Jean Charest, and Opposition Leader André Bochar for "fucking the backline to stand for the principles over which Quebecers are not pre-

occupying. Some gym users took offence because "Quebec is a secular society, we shouldn't have to hide [our accommodations] a religious group," the woman who launched the petition said.

That episode triggered a media hunt for other instances of religious groups pushing for such "accommodations." Serious amongst of a community health centre in the Park Extension area that bans husbands from maternity classes to accommodate Muslim and Sikh women. An Orthodox Jew was allowed to jump the queue in a Laval clinic to be able to treat his wife to make it back home before sunset last Friday. A newswoman for Montreal police officers responded that female officers call in to a male colleague.

'THERE IS A RUSH TO THE HIGH HORSES ON EVERY BANAL CASE. THAT'S USEFUL TO NO ONE.'



A RABBI outside Montreal's frozen YMCA windows

pared to make concessions." A piqued Bible diarist took that Dumour's seemed "worse than the oldest Republican conservative in the U.S.A." But then Dumour missed: "Maybe we are ripe for a debate on the [provincial] charter of rights, to start it up."

The novelty is that the current debate was not triggered by language, as has been the case in the past, but by the status of women. It started earlier this month after a woman launched a petition to remove foetus from that had been installed in the gym of a YMCA in Montreal. The windows were paid for by members of an observant Hasidic community whose synagogue is located across the back alley, and who didn't want their members and children to see women

in sport as the inevitability that Orthodox Jews refuse to be interviewed by a woman.

Many observers and experts are worried about overreaction to trivial matters that obscure larger questions. "There is a rush to the high horses on every banal case that creates an inflation of the currency of principles and rights that is useful to no one," said David Weinstock, a teacher at the Université de Montréal's ethnic studies center. Such a debate over reasonable accommodations would probably be out of place in Quebec or Vancouver, he says, "because they have become actual religious wars. In Montreal, there still is an identifiable majority." The Canadian style multi-cultural mosaic in a hard sell at Quebec, where francophones prefer the French republic approach, a secular society in which ethnic or religious communities have no official status and citizens are expected to integrate individually.

Pressed last week to say which are these "non-negotiable values" that all citizens should share in Quebec, both Bochar and Dumour mentioned freedom and equality, and "primacy of French and equality of races and women."

They said nothing about the right to be seen while combining. ■

RUSSIAN ROULETTE

Moscow is playing a high-stakes game, and Canada and its allies must be prepared

BY SEAN M. MALONEY
AND RICHARD MARTIN

The Russian Tupolev Bear bombers approached the northwest edge of the NORAD air defense zone as two Canadian and four American fighters lifted off to intercept them. The USAF F-15s from Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska soared in, as the Cold Lake-based Canadian CF-18 fighters provided backup; but once the Russians penetrated farther into the North American airspace. Eventually, the Bears headed home to a base somewhere on the Krasnodar peninsula. Each summer between Russia and NATO forces, commanders along the Cold War, have been quietly but repeatedly played since the time 1999 standoff between Russian and NATO forces in Kosovo—and is only part of a disturbing pattern of Russian behavior. How many Canadians think that Russian forces have attacked Canadian Bear helicopters with intent? Is the nearly forgotten case of the Russian ship Korymban Mar in 1995, they even thought the Canadian ship. As the recent arrival of an alleged Russian spy in Montreal under cover, we had better be prepared to keep watch, just as we did back in 1946 after General Goetzow revealed rampant Russian espionage in Canada, and Churchill declared that another Curtain had come down from Starn.

CONFRONTATION AND TYRANNY—SOUND FAMILIAR?

in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic.

Britain lost a new name and new occupants. In 1999, NATO quietly established a headquarters, called Multinational Corps Northeast, in the Polish city now called Szczecin. This formation commands three mechanized divisions: Danish, German and Polish, and a Baltic brigade made up of units from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The corps is optimized for conventional warfare and also counter-insurgency or stabilization missions, even though some of

of the formation may serve in Afghanistan. Multinational Corps Northeast serves to reassure Poland of NATO's air-to-air mutual defense guarantee, something very close to the Poles after they suffered a combined 90 years of Nazi and then Communist totalitarian domination. NATO keeps the Germans close and allied, and keeps the Russians out. When Russia threatened to shut off natural gas supplies to Poland, as it did in 2001 (and our offering to the Chinese and Georgian), January, or when the head of the Russian army in the Russian part of Kaliningrad, conversations with his Polish counterpart, claims to be able to seek the entire Polish army in five minutes, Poland knows it is not alone. When Poland in September committed more forces to the NATO mission in Afghanistan in response to Canadian requests, that decision was connected to broader fears of Russian belligerence and the belief that Canada will come to Poland's aid in the future. Many are unaware that since 2005, Poland has made a significant contribution to the U.S.-led Operation Iraqi Freedom, suffering 13 casualties—for the same reason.

Could Canada and its NATO allies have to repeat their former role in deterring Russian belligerence? Could Canada be asked to deploy troops in Poland and the Baltic states, as we did in West Germany in 1951? Some relics of the so-called peace movement from the 1980s might object that this is all Cold War nostalgia, but they are too busy repeating the U.S.'s involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan (and not Russia's war in Chechnya) that while all of our focus is on the war against the al Qaeda movement, the Russians are making some strategic moves—which are not



THEY'RE TAKING OVER WORLD ENERGY MARKET—AND REGULARLY INVADING OUR AIRSPACE

necessarily good for Canada and her allies. Russia is engaging in confrontational tactics—an indicator of increased confidence on the world stage. Ironically, the assistance of journalist Anna Politkovskaya, back to former Andrey Kostikov and others are an indicator that Russia has not embraced the values Canadians hold dear. Russia has suspended the activities of human rights organizations like Amnesty International for not registering under new laws meant to restrict those who pay too closely into Russian human rights violations. Belligerent international behavior, despite domestic crises, is all too familiar. But there are some new twists.

The Ukrainians have learned from our successful Cold War strategy, which also reigned them economically, and they are establishing the conditions to achieve. These will allow them to achieve what they couldn't during the Cold War influence over Europe. Economies, as we (and now the Russians) have learned from the Japanese, is a dirty war by other means. Let's start with oil, the lifeblood. Russia is the world's largest exporter of natural gas and No. 2 for oil. The break-up of the Soviet Union put some oil reserves outside of Moscow's control. With oil and gas being the

only real source of hard currency, this loss was compounded by the rapid privatization of the remaining energy sector. At the same time, the restructuring of the economy, rampant corruption, and a brutal war in Chechnya over the oil-rich areas of the Caspian basin contributed to astronomical foreign debt. This forced Russia to turn to the IMF for a US\$40-billion bailout that damaged Russian pride as much as the national pocketbook. Despite billions in Western loans, the Russians kept "reinvesting" the debt. But as also involved in foreign oil contracts to modernize the corrupt Soviet-era infrastructure necessary to extract and then export oil and gas, it put to pay off the loans.

With the high price of oil these days, Russia returned to IMF debt last year. Gratitude? None. Royal Dutch Shell and Japanese companies Mitsubishi and Inose, which are engaged in the Sakhalin-1 oil and gas field, now stand accused of violating Russian environmental regulations and could face a US\$20 billion lawsuit for ecological damages. The absurdity of Moscow expressing environmental concerns while, project costs soared up as because the companies couldn't environmental demands to move a pipeline away from whale feeding grounds. Russia wanted to restrict its cost sharing deal

NORAD's aerial command (GNT), the Sakhalin project, now it's necessary with the companies, and when it didn't get its way it began flaring its muscles to threaten Sakhalin-2. Now Exxon Mobil's project, Sakhalin-2, is in similar jeopardy. They aren't alone—the Kremlin has been creatively forcing other parts contract. Russia has used these companies to modernize—and now is pressuring them using creative methods. Then there is the aerospace industry. Modern aircraft are made from aluminum and



THEY'RE TAKING OVER WORLD ENERGY MARKET—AND REGULARLY INVADING OUR AIRSPACE

oil, it can threaten with Western aircraft production and repair. It can lose military technologies and use grade its military forces by accumulating internal criticism, the Kremlin has fewer and fewer checks and balances on its behavior. As positive military behavior against Canada and the U.S. is an indication that Vladimir Putin's Russia's nearly increased in consolidating domestic power. That's not a good sign.

When the Conservative government revealed its intent in military deployment to the Arctic in 2005, a defence analysis looked askance, particularly since the focus was on the war in Afghanistan. Canada's strategic outlook has to take into account the balance between forward security defence concerns, and continental defence at home. It is one thing for Moscow to engage in economic competition. It is another to couple it with despotic domestic policies and increasingly aggressive military behavior directed against Canada and her allies.

the parent firm of Airbus. EADS is the leading European military and civilian aerospace technology innovator, and builds the Typhoon fighter and the A380 model system, which is the basis of Europe's fourth largest aircraft. At the same time, Russia has established all Russian aerospace design bureaus to form the United Aircraft Corp.

Meanwhile, Russia has undermined the UN through its war power in the Security Council. It successfully aggravated a split between France and the U.S. during the 1998-99 run-up to the Iraq war. And those who criticize American behavior regarding Iraq should take the look at Russian behavior. For years the three top perpetrators of the UN's Iraq oil-for-food scandal were companies from France, China and Russia. When critics accused that "the U.S. armed Iraq" in the 1990s, they conveniently overlooked the fact that Iraq used Russian tanks and French aircraft. Iraq owed Russia billions for those weapons, and there was no way Russia was going to lose out if the U.S. effected regime change—or if the UN decided Iraq should be subjected to an embargo.

The combination of these moves, to use a cliché, the chess-like and maneuvering. Russian doctrine the promotion of energy resources to Europe and turn the taps on and off as

well. It can threaten with Western aircraft production and repair. It can lose military technologies and use grade its military forces by accumulating internal criticism, the Kremlin has fewer and fewer checks and balances on its behavior. As positive military behavior against Canada and the U.S. is an indication that Vladimir Putin's Russia's nearly increased in consolidating domestic power. That's not a good sign.

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IN 1999, Poland was accepted into NATO

PHOTO TOP BY AP/WIDEWORLD; BOTTOM BY AP/WIDEWORLD; BOTTOM RIGHT BY AP/WIDEWORLD

BLACK ENOUGH?

White mother, Kenyan father: Is Barack Obama African American?

BY LORRA CH. SAVINKE • Appearing alongside African American icons such as Oprah Winfrey and Maya Angelou, at last week's groundbreaking ceremony on the National Mall for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., in general, Barack Obama spoke of "healing the fissuring wounds of a nation's original sin." The sin, of course, was slavery. The junior Democratic senator from Illinois is the only African American currently serving in the U.S. Senate. The man who many Democrats believe could be the first black president stands as a potential symbol of a nation's yearning for racial healing. But throughout his political career, the 46-year-old former civil rights lawyer and first black president of the Harvard Law Review has been dogged by a surprising question: Is he black enough?

Obama's mother was white, and his father was black. He was born in Hawaii and lived part of his life in the homeland of his Indonesian stepfather, and was later raised by white grandparents. All that came into play when he first ran for Congress in 2000, and chose a Chicago district with the highest African American population in the U.S. In the Democratic primary, his opponent, incumbent and former Black Panther Bobby Rush, made the case that Obama's questionable upbringing in white isolation, his education at Columbia University before Harvard, and his job-teaching constitutional law at the University of Chicago, meant he was not of the people he sought to represent.

"Bobby Rush said this guy lives in Hyde Park and works at the university—it's a joke for me," says an Uncle Sam who hangs out with the white man," recall professor Melissa Harris-Lacewell, who now teaches politics and African American studies at Princeton. It worked. Rush beat Obama soundly.

In 2004, when Obama came to his rights on the U.S. Senate, his opponent, black Republican Allen Keyes, even more explicitly accused Obama of "wrongly claiming an African American heritage." Keyes said he was in favor of financial reparations for



THE PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL: There's not a black America and white America.

HE'S NOT A DESCENDANT OF AMERICAN SLAVES, AND FOR SOME THAT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

slavery. But he made the point that Obama would not qualify because his father was an immigrant from Kenya—a foreign visitor who had grown up in a tin shack boarding house, but not a descendant of slaves in America. Keyes said that made all the difference. "My ancestors sailed in slavery in this country," Keyes said during the campaign. "My consciousness, who I am as a person, has been shaped by my struggle, deeply emotional and deeply painful, with the reality of this heritage."

At the time, Obama seemed to transcend

the race issue, playing voters of all stripes something with which to identify—an African American success story, an immigrant "American Dream" story, or just a middle-class midwestern rags-to-gone story. "What all of us in Illinois have lived and over again was a sense that Barack was exceptional African American—that something about the plurality of his own racial background makes him accessible to who is voters in a way that other black leaders aren't," recalls Harris-Lacewell. Then Obama delivered the winning address at the 2008 Democratic National Convention that captured the national imagination with the declaration that, "There's not a black America and white America and Latino America

and Asian America, there's the United States of America. In no other country on earth is my story even possible." Obama took 70 per cent of the vote in a state that is only 15 per cent black.

But with his potential presidential candidacy, the "black enough" issue is re-emerging. "Other than color, Obama did not—does not—share a heritage with the majority of black Americans, whose descendants of plantation slaves," columnist Stanley Crouch wrote this month in the *New York Daily News*. "So when black Americans refer to Obama as 'one of us,' I do not know what they are talking about." While Obama has said he has experienced typical racial stereotyping, "he cannot claim those problems to his own—nor has he lived the life of a black American," wrote Crouch. Far from legitimizing a post-racialist American politics, Crouch concluded that Obama was elected precisely, a black man would have arrived at the White House through "a side door—which might, at this point, be the only one that's open."

It is true that immigrants from Africa and the West Indies, like Obama and former secretary of state Colin Powell, whose family came from Jamaica, have had greater success in the U.S. than descendants of American slaves. And the implications of that success



KEYES (above) made race an issue, Powell with Bush.

THE PLURALITY OF HIS BACKGROUND MAKES HIM ACCESSIBLE TO WHITE VOTERS'

are the subject of debate. *New Yorker* writer and author Malcolm Gladwell, the son of a Jamaican immigrant mother, suggested in an autobiographical essay that the success of immigrant blacks likely suggests to some people that "racism does not really exist at all." It implies," he went on to say, "that when the conservatism in Congress say the respectability for ending anti-poverty lies not with collective action but with the poor themselves they are right." Could it be Obama



THIS AUGUST, Obama (with his step-grandmother) visited his ancestral birth village.

candidacy, let alone a presidency, send that message even more strongly? "There is no question that a black president—similarly to two black secretaries of state—makes it easier to claim that structural inequalities are less important, and it's simply a matter of individual decision-making and individual effort," says Harris-Lacewell.

The issue has caused a fair amount of controversy in recent years on top American campuses where affirmative action programs appear to have disproportionately benefited children of Africans and West Indians. In 2004, African American scholar of Harvard University raised concerns that an estimated half of two-thirds of the incoming black freshmen were immigrants from Africa or the West Indies or the children of such immigrants, not the descendants of American slaves. Descendants of slaves began to describe themselves as "descendants" to distinguish themselves from the rest.

Obama himself traded on different identities. On the Oprah show, he noted that his half-Indonesian half-white is married to a Chinese Canadian. "When we get together for Christmas or Thanksgiving, it's like a little mini-United Nations. I've got relatives who look like Benito Muir, and I've got relatives who look like Margaret Thatcher. We've got it all." He told the *Chicago Tribune Magazine* in 2004. "I view myself as African American. I consider myself black." Harris-Lacewell takes him at his word. "I don't think he understands himself as being fundamentally free of the legacy of American slavery—especially given that he and [African American wife] Michelle's children are black" in a more modern and sane—descendants of American slaves in the South. "Obama has said he does not 'have a lot of interest with identity politics, whether it's coming from the right or the left.' This includes ignorance with claims of 'color-blindness as a means to deny the structural inequalities' in society." It also includes those self-appointed arbiters of African American culture who declare who is and isn't "black enough."

He may not have patience for it, but the very complexity that makes Obama a flawed symbol makes him a potent candidate. "It works in his favor that he's not a black American. I think it's an aspect of the nature of race in America that at this point, it might be easier for America to elect a black person who is not historically related to the people brought over as slaves," Stanley Crouch said in an interview. Gladwell, the writer, said it shouldn't matter. "Stanley Crouch is quite right: Obama isn't 'black' in the same way that African Americans are 'black.' The real question, though, is why anyone should care?" ■



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WORLD



ACCORDING to one recent account in a Turkish newspaper, fully 25,000 Muslims in Istanbul converted to Christianity in 2005

Fearing a new holy empire

Just when Turks are worried about Christians, here comes the Pope

BY ADRIAN F. ERAS • When Pope Benedict XVI arrives in Ankara on Nov. 28, few people expect he'll be given a warm welcome. In the aftermath of comments the pontiff made on Sept. 12, quoting a byzantine emperor who characterized some of the Prophet Muhammad's teachings as "evil and inhuman," mosques over the planned visit to Turkey have intensified. "Why now, many Turks are asking, at a time when Turkey's relations with Europe are tense, and some observers are even forecasting the suspension of part of Turkey's EU membership negotiations when EU leaders meet next month."

In Europe, opposition to Turkey ever joining the EU is increasing. Benedict, when he was still a cardinal, was part of that club. In 2004, just months before being elected pope, he stated that Turkey "is founded upon Islam" and "dram the entry of Turkey into the EU would be very limited." That assessment is still fresh in the minds of Turks, as is the steady stream of reform demands from EU member nations, not to mention France's General Assembly recently passing a provocative bill outlawing the denial of the Armenian genocide at the hands of Ottoman Turks during the First World War.

That bill, meant as a warning to Turkey's government that a legitimate addition to France's legal code, is unlikely to be passed by the French Senate, but it is still a bitter pill to swallow for Turks, who have been busy trying to meet EU requirements before the leaders' meeting in December. In fact, in protest against the legislation, Turkey cut military ties to France.

But even as Turks grow increasingly embittered with the message from Europe that they are not welcome, many are also concerned about the pressures their society is facing from westernization. "The flow of cul-

tural values has been moving west to east for decades," says Ismail Aral, a professor in the international relations department of Fatih University, Istanbul's most conservative post-secondary institution. For many conservative Turks, the Pope's visit falls into a disturbing pattern of Christianization sweeping these nations. "They want to transform us into a Christian country," says Mehmedin Saracilar, a 50-year-old Muslim living in the conservative Fethiye district of Istanbul. "That's the only way they will accept us. Well, forget it then. That will not happen."


But it is happening, if not literally then certainly in terms of culture and iconography. In Istanbul, traditionally an intersection of East and West, the West has, for some time now, had the green light. From Sunday holidays to Santa Claus, symbols of Christian tradition are gaining ground. More tangibly, figures published in January 2004 in Turkey's mainstream Milliyet newspaper claimed that 15,000 Muslims, the vast majority of them in Istanbul, had converted to Christianity in 2001. While impossible to confirm these figures, the rate of conversion, according to Christian leaders in Turkey, is on the rise.

"Conversion is a very sensitive topic," says Behnam Konaglan, project coordinator for AIT THE Faith mosque in Istanbul. Tensions between the faiths have been intensifying.

"YOU HAVE TO BE BRAVE TO BE CHRISTIAN IN THIS SOCIETY. A CONVERT WILL LOSE HIS JOB."



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little translation at the Table Society in Turkey. "The [Middle East] figure sounds too high to me, but this is something as one in the Christian community wants to talk about." As an even jobbed, Konagtas admits that speaking about his beliefs is part of his mission, though he does away from calling it proselytism.

Konagtas and his Bible Society have no illusions about the dangers of working in a country where 99 per cent of the population is Muslim and a growing number of those Muslims are hostile to his activities (in a recent case, a 66-year-old boy from the conservative eastern Anatolian city of Trabzon accused 15 years in prison for the murder of a Catholic priest, Andrea Santoro, in the midst of the Danish cartoon crisis). His office, located near the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul's historic Sultanahmet district, employs security precautions comparable to those of any diplomatic mission. The locked gate leads to a garbageman where visitors are not produce some form of identity and confirm they are expected before being handed a visitor's card. Inside the complex, finding the society and the attached "prayer house" is a miniature venture—both are located behind an unmarked door.

"I think I will be a brave person to be Christian in this society," says Konagtas. "A Christian cannot will likely lose his job, his friends, his family. He will no longer be considered a Turk." To use the pressures on Christians, the competent pastor says his community is "desperate" for Turkey to join the EU. Some key reforms to Turkey's existing laws would benefit religious minorities like his, including a worst, controversial amendment to property laws, introduced by the EU, that would allow religious foundations to own property. That, says Konagtas, could allow Christian groups to reclaim property appropriated by the Turkish republic. "We've gone to the European court to get our Christian back," he adds. "We won the case and Turkey changed some laws, but why still waiting for our land?"

Battle Christian community supporters argue that giving Christians property rights would lead to a Christian "reoccupation" of Turkey. "They will end up owning half of Turkey," says 61-year-old Ali Shaban, a retired religious studies teacher who opposes any conversions to Christianity for the sake of EU membership. "The Vatican will take all of money here rebuild churches. It is a new force of colonization. This Pope is a dangerous man he wants to create a new Christian empire."

Pope Benedict's visit, officially described as an attempt to heal the 950-year-old division between the Catholic and Orthodox churches, is being interpreted by Istanbul's conservative Muslims as an extension of the Vatican's push to confront Islam. "Istanbul," says Father Felix at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, "is one of the most holy cities in Christianity. If Islam is one lung of the Christian, then Istanbul is the other, and Pope Benedict is attempting to reunite the two." For Orthodox Christians, a powerful demonstration with deep rooted influence over much

'THIS POPE IS A DANGEROUS MAN. HE IS TRYING TO FORM A UNITED FRONT AGAINST ISLAM.'



A PROTEST IN ANKARA IN EARLY NOVEMBER AGAINST THE POPE'S IMPENDING VISIT

of Eastern Europe and Greece, Istanbul, or Constantinople as many of them still call it, is their home. It is also the link to the West for the few remaining Christians in other parts of the Middle East, the majority of whom are Orthodox.

The underlying implications of Pope Benedict's visit don't stop with even dangerous Muslims. "This Pope is a serious danger for Islam," says professor Aral, echoing Ali Shaban's sentiments. "He is trying to form a united front against Islam. This is the perception of many Muslims in Turkey." But, unlike the more radical Shaban, the problem for moderate like him, he says, is not theological or even a confrontational. It is a question of identity. "Anatolian Islam has always been moderate. But in recent years we're seeing a crystallization of religious and secular identities in Turkey." The result is a rise in

extremism, with parallel rise in secularism. Both forces feed off each other in a dynamic city like Istanbul. As more and more Turks express their "Europeanness," openly ignoring traditional religious responsibilities like fasting during Ramadan, which they see as vestiges of a retrogressive past, more Muslims turn to a more radical version of their faith, concerned with the corruption of their society and reacting to it with more fervor. Members of this latter group, says Konagtas, now feel they can have a purely Islamic identity that has nothing to do with the West.

The Pope's visit and the reform of Turkish society over the course of the EU accession bid could potentially widen the rift between these two groups. But this is a natural process, argues Arslan Kaya, director of the Centre for European Studies at Istanbul Bilgi University. "We're still at the early stages of Turkey's encounter with Europe. The problem right now is that certain groups with vested interests are taking advantage of our own perceptions of Turkish society." As Turkey enters another electoral cycle, with a presidential election due

in May 2007 and parliamentary elections six months later, the typical partisan campaign process has begun. "Political parties and reactionary groups are using the hot issue," he adds, "like property rights for Christians and conversions, to provoke their own citizens." Kaya is optimistic that this phase will end once the elections are over.

Others are not. "The only thing that will change the attitudes of Turkey's Muslims toward its Christians," says Konagtas, "is if we take all of the school textbooks that teach Muslim kids to hate Christians and burn them." The same, critics Muslims would argue, could be said about the current Pope, who has been regularly accused of having hatred between the religions. Books and papers aside though, the future of co-existence in Turkey seems set for more controversy than reconciliation. ■



Canadian Environment Awards 2007

Send us your community environmental heroes!

We want to shout their names from the rooftops for the whole country to hear!

It's time to launch the Canadian Environment Awards 2007. Each year, we have the chance to meet extraordinary Canadians who are protecting, preserving and restoring the country's environment.

The Canadian Environment Awards has grown tremendously since it was launched in 2002. Its heart and soul is the Community Awards, which celebrates grassroots individuals and groups who are making a difference each day in communities across Canada. Once again, we are asking Canadians to look around their communities and nominate individuals and groups worthy of recognition in the six categories of environmental achievement: Climate Change, Conservation, Environmental Health, Environmental Learning, Restoration & Rehabilitation and Sustainable Living.

Our Gold and Silver Community Awards winners will each receive prizes of \$5,000 and \$2,500, respectively, to donate to the not-for-profit environmental cause of their choice.

Nominate someone, and you could win a trip to the Canadian Environment Awards Gala in Montréal on June 4, 2007!

For complete nomination guidelines for the Community Awards program, visit www.macleans.ca/cea2007

Nominations close December 8, 2006!



VIRGINIA: POLICE RADIO 10-4 IS OVER AND OUT
The state of Virginia is dropping the venerable police-radio "10-codes," after decades of use. A new law will phase them out in favor of plain language, known as "common-language protocols." The codes were never standardized and different jurisdictions used different meanings for their codes. For example, in Arlington, "10-13" means "officer in trouble," while in nearby Loudoun County, it means "officer in vehicle."




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BUSINESS



CUSTOMERS spend \$10 per trip on average, for everything from school supplies to food

Where the dollar really is almighty

The fastest-growing concept in retail is after your pocket change

BY SARAH ELTON • Shopping at the dollar store can sometimes feel like shopping for free.

For a mere dollar you can buy practically anything you need, from kitchenware to arts and crafts supplies to socks, says gardening gloves. Need a set of paintbrushes? That will carry you one dollar. How about some detergent? Also a dollar at your local store. And if you don't have one at your neighborhood mall today, chances are you will tomorrow.

Dollar stores are booming. They are the fastest growing sector in the retail market both here and in the United States. Between 2000 and 2004, the number of dollar stores in this country almost doubled. Last year, the Canadian chain Dollar store opened 51 new stores and posted a 17 percent increase in revenue. And all that dollar store success means a healthy profit: The company's year-over-year earnings total \$743 million.

You've got to push a lot of turkey buzzards to make that kind of dough, but it's easy to do when every sector of society walks through your door. "Almost 77 per cent of Canadian households have in the last year have shopped at a dollar store," says Pam Wood, marketing director for consumer measurement services with AC Nielsen, which tracks the spending habits of families across the country. The stores are a staple for teachers looking for budget supplies and parents filling birthday party loot bags. And each customer spends, on average, \$10 per trip to a dollar store.

A shop that offers a yard sale-like jumble of products is not an all-new phenomenon. Dollar stores are more or less the modern-day descendants of the old five-and-dime. (What a Dollarsense today would be Rossy, a retail store in Quebec that opened in 1950.) And in Canada, they are still mostly mom-and-pop places. What's changed is the size of the market, and the price at which it is expanding. Increasingly, brand names can be found on the shelves, along with more food items such as canned tuna and pasta sauces—which means people are likely to spend more per visit. And new big business is getting in on the action, particularly in the U.S., where mega-chains like Dollar General and Fred's dominate.

Of course, it's not only the prices that lure customers. Attempts to do the dollar store as experience. "It's the best for kids on a mission," says Amy Karmay, principal of the Bank Rescue Group, who has conducted market research on the retail sector. "It's the gathering element." Karmay believes the stores' increased popularity is, in part, due to the ever more diverse ethnic makeup of the country. "The dollar store is a lot like shopping in a bazaar. There's a lot of different ethnic groups in our urban centers," he says.

The sector is also blossoming due to globalisation of the dollar store. Thanks to China's cheap production costs, we in North America can pay a buck for a hand-painted wooden toy airplane, with cloth sofa and metal teapots. And since these days practically everything we buy is made in China anyway, the stigma of buying that best at the dollar store is gone. To choose this stock, company buyers head to China where, almost every week, there are trade shows across the country and each last night is known for producing something different. Last week in Guangzhou city, about with a major convention featuring, in industry speak, soft wear—things like tea socks, over mitts, socks.

Still, for many shoppers it's a bit of a sensory of capitalism how these products can be made in China, shipped to Canada, marked to the ship—well, marked in a store that must be staffed, heated and lit, and then sold for one loonie. Where's the profit? "Firstly, it's a question of volume. Second of all, it's quality," says Tim Smith, senior vice-president of Walley Asset Management, a social investment firm in Boston. It's part of a coalition of investors in the United States and Canada concerned about working conditions in the Chinese factories that make dollar store products. No matter where the stuff is made, he suspects something else has got to give in order for the stores to turn such healthy profits. "They are looking to use a penny-wise horse from a rich man. In cutting that penny, they are probably cutting the workers' living."

While no one has found proof of labour exploitation, he says that it is informed speculation to assume that the lowest price on the chain is the only reason for the store's success. Most competitors to the dollar store, of course, are more institutional in the money being made at the other end. The dollar store model has become so successful that other businesses are following suit. The Loblaw-owned grocery chain, No Frills, has opened a dollar store section in many of its outlets, and Wal-Mart is now selling things for a dollar. Even Canadian Tire is getting in on the trend by launching an adult shoe buckets filled with socks for a buck. Products that cheap used to be considered too low-level. But now they are, no longer in the profits. It's amazing how quickly those dollar add up. ■

THE NUMBER OF DOLLAR STORES IN CANADA HAS DOUBLED SINCE 2000, AND PROFITS TOP \$743 MILLION

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MEDICINE IS TRYING TO IMPROVE its practices by learning how other high-risk settings, from airlines to Formula One, manage risk.

NOW, WHERE WERE WE?

Medical errors are killing Canadians. How to stop the bungling.

BY DANIEL RANAUERISKA • Doctors have a reputation for bickering when it comes to what to do. "Lewly" means find that objection ignored, perhaps no more tragically than in 1994, when 12 babies died after heart surgery at a Winnipeg hospital. Now, however, an inquiry concluded several of those deaths could have been avoided if warnings by the nursing staff had been heeded. More recently, mistakes have shed light on just how often medical errors occur—see suggested they kill up to 14,000 hospitalized Canadians annually. Little wonder then that a new Pollara poll indicates a considerable lack of confidence among Canadians, with 60 per cent of respondents saying they think it's "likely" someone treated in hospital will suffer a "serious medical error." The real and considerable risk is feeling it too, and a turning-on warning is usually all it takes to see the error.

Dr. Richard Kail, a cardiologist and pilot, and divides his time between operating on cancer patients, flying his own private turbo-prop Piper Cherokee, and consulting for the Surgical Safety Institute in Tampa, Fla., which he founded. Kail is an example of how medicine is increasingly trying to improve its practices by learning how other high-risk sectors—aviation, nuclear energy, even For-

mula One—manage and reduce risk. Kail, a retractable health care professional on "crown jewels management," an operational style borrowed from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) emphasizes open communication at the expense of defense to institutionalized hierarchy. In the United States, Kail notes, physicians leave behind

WHEN DOCTORS APPLIED FORMULA ONE-STYLE TACTICS, TECHNICAL ERRORS DROPPED BY 42 PER CENT



PRE-FLIGHT CHECKLISTS BEFORE SURGERY?

1,800 surgical instruments in their is checked up pilots every time. The airlines, by contrast, "never land with the wheels up. They have a way of doing things right."

Improving safety can be as simple as adopting a mandatory checklist to be completed prior to surgical intervention, a sort of pre-flight briefing for the O.R. It is often assumed everyone on the same page in the operating theatre, and because those involved

are trained, highly motivated professionals, the vast majority of surgeries go smoothly, says Dr. Steve Bore, a professor in the department of health care and epidemiology at the University of British Columbia. But without formalized processes, a simple, human mistake can easily go unnoticed. "Pilot brief each other before the flight, they talk about the weather, what they might encounter in terms of traffic—they're looking at all sorts of information," Bore says. "Well, the same thing should be happening in the O.R., O.R.s, emergency rooms even."

Edmonton's regional health authority, Capital Health, a unit of the early Canadian adopters. For the past year, every surgical team had to run through a checklist, says Dr. David Mador, a urologist who performs bladder and prostate cancer surgeries. Mador's experience often involves as many as seven team members, so it is critical nothing is missed in order to avoid errors, each depending on the right way, safety instead of the leap. "A mandatory process, where you have to review the information before you actually start doing anything, helps to avoid what someone can be disaster," Mador says.

Kail has seen what can happen when a rigorous routine isn't followed. He recalls once getting ready to operate on a cancer patient, when he noticed the results of critical blood work were missing from the file. Regardless, the anesthesiologist had gone ahead and inserted an epidural catheter in the man's back. When the lab results finally arrived, Kail noted the patient's blood thinner had been stopped in time. "Well, even the pilot parking your plane you shouldn't operate on somebody's liver if the blood work's bad," Kail says. "I cancelled his surgery, and now we were in the uncomfortable position of having to explain to the patient why it was cancelled."

safe to take the catheter out because his blood was thin—of course, it was unsafe to put it in, but they hadn't checked."

In one of the odder crossover collaborations, the glamorous world of Formula One racing is a lot less high-tech doctors a thing or two. F1 drivers regularly scratch to a stop in narrow pits with so few crew members can remain in the vehicle during servicing in seconds. A British physician, who also happened to be a race fan, wondered how two-dozen crew members leap from tripping all over each other, and what lessons could be learned by the children's hospital he worked in. He showed Formula One's technical director a video of a patient being transferred from the O.R. to the intensive care unit. Formula's crew was struck by how several conversations were going on at once, while equipment was disconnected or reconnected, but not necessarily in any particular order, and with no single person in obvious charge. In the Formula pit, each person has a designated task, done in sequence, and most often without discussion. When the doctors applied some of the F1 tactics, technical errors during patient transfers dropped 42 per cent.

In 2004, Shep co-authored the Canadian Adverse Events Study, a landmark investigation that estimated that preventable adverse events cause the deaths of between 9,150 and almost 24,000 patients in acute care hospitals in 2006. Today, hospitalized patients have a one in nine chance of getting an infection, and one in seven in nine chance of suffering an error with their medication, says Philip Hansen, chief executive officer of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute. To bring the risk down, the institute is pursuing several initiatives. These include training programs in root cause analysis, the saving of critical safety alerts, looking at new ways to certify and re-certify nurses and physicians, and coordinating the country's 16 independent medical error committees. "We have problems in the health care industry," Hansen says. "It's partly because no one wants to feel that they've done anything wrong."

Hansen would like to see an anonymous reporting system for errors and near-misses, similar to how airlines today can report on errors anonymously to NASA, which then informs the FAA. Hansen notes the case of the Air France pilot who crashed in Toronto last year has never been released. "We all make human errors, but the problem is we won't 'put' the person, and that by 'putting' a person that will somehow solve the problem—a safer doctor," Hansen says. "The airline industry learned that, and they learned you have to talk about safety, and you have to begin to actually understand the causes."

POLL: 2008 Health Care in Canada Survey Highlights some shifting convictions, gender differences, and an increasing concern for the environment.

ODDO, DAD OR UGLY? 51 per cent of respondents said Canada has the best health care system in the world and yet 31 per cent said they do not think Canadians are receiving quality health care services—led 56 per cent say our system needs either a complete rebuild or major repairs.

GENDER GAP: 68 per cent of men said Canadians get quality health care. Only 50 per cent of women agree.

HURRY UP AND WAIT: 76 per cent of males think wait times for elective surgery are the best two years.

DISTINCT SOCIETIES: Quebecers were the least willing to cut back on non-essential care but turn down the heat—only 27 per cent would. With 62 per cent, Ontario was the most willing.

PLU REASON: 41 per cent of Canadians said they had a flu shot in the last year.

THAT'S MYKAT: 58 per cent said private insurance for health services already covered by medicine would improve services for everyone. Sixty-three per cent said private insurance would create a two-tier system where those who could afford to pay would get better treatment.

HONEY GAP: The more money people made the more likely they were to think Canada's health care was getting good only.

45 per cent of those who made less than \$25,000 a year said private care was better quality care, while 66 per cent of those earning more than \$100,000 thought so.

GREEN PANTS: 40 per cent said the environment and pollution are the most significant factors facing Canada. A figure on the rise, while 19 per cent said it was health care. A lag down from the 40 per cent range two years ago. Large majorities expect the health impact of air pollution (72 per cent), greenhouse gases (65 per cent) and urban growth (63 per cent) to grow more severe.

Source: 2008 Health Care in Canada Survey

There are no quick fixes. Students physicians have to be trained, Kail says, and the old guard has to accept the new collaborative culture. "Thirty years ago, the captain on the airplane was the captain—the old copilot has much more to be learned in his cockpit and that was a bad idea," Kail says. "But they kept flying airplanes into the ground, and finally decided that was a bad idea." ■



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PHONING IN A PERIODIC REMINDER

What will you be doing next month's time today? If you have a telephone from Japan's NTT DoCoMo, you'll know if you're having your period. The POMA-0220P telephone, called to remind, has a programmable pre-set cycle function to remind them when their periods will be. Says a spokeswoman, "Women regularly carry around sanitary products just before their periods start. We developed this function in case they forget."

Diamonds

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Take the heat of an eternal sun. Imagine a world in cataclysm. Then wait a few billion years. And sometimes – very rarely – the earth yields a unique treasure. A diamond.



Elements in any life forms appeared on the planet, intense amounts of heat and pressure in the earth's core forced common carbon deposits to crystallize into precious diamonds.

Brilliant. Magical. Mysterious. Unique. Rare. Pure. A timeless gift of nature. And a piece of geological history. Diamonds dazzle the eye and intrigue the mind. For centuries, their sparkle, strength and addictive allure have mystified cultures around the world. Diamonds are prized not only for their natural beauty, but for their protective energy and healing power. Most of them are billions of years old and have endured a hazardous journey from deep within the center of the earth. But once the

Brough
diamond



brilliance of a diamond is unleashed by a master cutter, the journey seems well worth the wait. Even in their natural rough form, they are subtle, organic treasures and miracles of mother nature.

Diamonds have long intrigued and beguiled, and their mystique has been the subject of many myths and legends. Thousands of years ago, our ancestors believed that diamonds were everything from hardened dewdrops, to splinters from the stars, to crystallized lightning. They have always been powerful symbols. In the past, they've represented courage, strength, invincibility, and spiritual purity. Today, they're still worn as potent symbols – of love, devotion, pride, personal commitment, colonization, achievement, wealth and power.

No other stone is imbued with such emotion. No other gem represents the purest expression of deepest human feeling. No other product commemorates milestones the way a diamond does. Nothing captures imaginations like the Diamond Dream.

A GIFT OF HOPE AND PROSPERITY

That's why it's so important for anyone involved in the diamond industry to "live up" to a code of conduct that is fitting to the product. The Diamond Trading Company calls it "Living up to Diamonds." By making sure the provenance of a diamond is as pure as the stone. By using the power of this natural resource to benefit the countries, communities and people in which diamonds are found. And nowhere is this more evident than in Africa.

More than 65 per cent of the world's diamonds are sourced in African countries. In fact, the diamond trade contributes \$8.4 billion dollars per year to the economies of Southern Africa. As one of Africa's major natural resources, diamonds are helping transform Southern Africa and the lives of its people. They are acknowledged as one of the key components to a sustainable future for African nations and have been lauded by African leaders, including Nelson Mandela, as critical to a successful future for Southern Africa. The impact of diamonds has been enormously positive, tangible and measurable.

- An estimated 5 million people have access to appropriate healthcare in Southern Africa thanks to revenue from diamonds.

Diamonds have funded the construction of hospitals, medical centres and hospices.

- Diamond revenues enable every child in Botswana to receive free education up to the age of 13 (never available before).
- In 1966 (when diamonds were discovered in Botswana), there were only three secondary schools in the country. Today there are more than 300.
- De Beers Consolidated Mines was the first mining company in the world to extend free anti-retroviral treatment to HIV positive employees, their life partners and former employees.
- Diamonds play a critical role in helping tackle the HIV pandemic in Southern Africa by funding counseling, testing, education, treatment programs, clinics and hospices.
- Once one of the poorest countries on earth, during the last 25 years, Botswana has enjoyed one of the fastest-growing economies on the planet.
- Diamonds sourced from conflict areas in Africa have virtually been eliminated through the UN-mandated Kimberly Process. Today more than 99.8 per cent of diamonds are guaranteed to be conflict-free.



THE CANADIAN CONNECTION

As a relatively new diamond producing country, Canada is already enjoying the economic benefits of this beautiful natural resource. The Royal Bank predicts that diamonds will bring almost \$70 billion to the Canadian economy over the next 25 years. More than one in seven residents of the Northwest Territories are employed as a result of the diamond industry. And Canada's Aboriginal communities are enjoying tremendous benefits from diamond mining and exploration. De Beers and other major diamond producers have already spent millions of dollars to fund everything from the development of Skills Training Centres, to supporting a variety of literacy programs, to sponsoring projects that help the Aboriginal people preserve their heritage. Obviously the global diamond industry brings real and tangible benefits to many people and

communities around the world – and most importantly, the industry is helping to transform the lives of people in countries who need help the most. It's a success story that hasn't been told, but one that should be celebrated. And one that should be celebrated by consumers because they can feel confident and reassured that the diamonds they buy are making a lasting difference to the people of Southern Africa and around the world.

It is fitting that so much sustainable, positive change comes from one of nature's most beautiful and magical gifts – the diamond.



For more information on the Kimberly Process and the good that diamonds do, visit www.diamondfacts.org.



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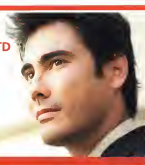
MEXICO: A BLOODTHIRSTY TOPE COMPANION
Since discovering a 16th-century mummy beneath Mexico City's central square recently, archeologists last week announced a subsequent find: a horrific carving of Tlaloquehuic, an Aztec goddess with plant stems and blood dripping from her mouth, who ate the dead. Experts now believe the site may have been the burial ground of Ahauitotl, the father of Moctezuma II, the Aztec king vanquished by the Spanish.

Especially notable, the former Carina met its maker because the capitalist opposition that came to an end in the 1980s. Today he sees the world's armaments almost like rock stars, hounding for Russian weapons manufacturers' flagging, broken brand of vodka. His immortality seems assured, and not just by the millions of weapons set to rule the world for decades to come. In Mezzogiorno, the defense industry came out to honor the man whose invention had driven out the country's Portuguese colonial masters. "His mold is," Kalashnikov later recounted, "that when the guerrillas were home to their valleys, they painted their own Kalash." ■

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'WE MET IN MONTE CARLO WHEN I WAS 7 AND JAVIER WAS 23—HE WAS A BOY. IT WAS AS IF WE WERE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.' —GINA LOLLRIGIDA ON HER PASSION FOR MUCH YOUNGER MEN

PAUL McCALLUM KEY FIGURE REMEMBER THIS GUY?

They were the show-on to be precise—being "round basketball" when personally going out of his way to make a couple of years back for a second field goal in overtime for the NBA. When it's all over, Paul McCallum completed all of his field-goal attempts against Montreal last week, helping his new team, the B.C. Lions, to the Grey Cup. The showing presumably left some red faces in Roughriders-land, where many school kids idolized McCallum's daughters in 2004, and angry fans took out their frustrations by pelting his house with eggs and dumping manure in the yard. McCallum, in his 40s, managed to suppress the rage of the biggest fan base in the league. But his teammates were pleased to join on his behalf. Said **Frank Johnson**, a defensive lineman with the Lions: "Thank you, basketball!"

GEORGE MILLER MAD MAX YIELDS TO HAPPY PERFORMERS

All those talking to us the previous in *Happy Feet* can thank the big guy. The movie's Aussie director, George Miller, says he began making the animated feature after his plans to shoot a Mad Max sequel with Mel Gibson in the Northland desert were scuttled by the U.S. invasion of Iraq. "Because of the war scare, we couldn't get our com-

puter-generated Max back," he explains. Maybe just as well: After Gibson's drunken, and sometimes deadly, in July, it's hard to imagine him cosplaying jingoism. *Happy Feet* made US\$42 million on its opening weekend. Miller blames Mel's outbreak on indecisiveness: "He's always had the angry side."

I've seen him angry at family, friends, his church and himself. Whichever he's angry at, he's for 30 years. "Miller and I share a love affair," without Gibson. "Mel has lost his passion for acting," he says, implying that he'll be too old for the role.

GINA LOLLRIGIDA WHY BURY A GOOD THING?

Don't count a woman out until she's really out, and Gina Lollrigida still has plenty of energy left. At 78, the former film beauty postponed her wedding to **Javier** Riquelme (right) to trans-

fer from a small affair in New York City to something larger in a Rome church, "given the amount of my friends." It's not like they're making one. Lollrigida has been doing *Regis & Kelly* for 22 years. "La Lollo" was once billed as the "world's most beautiful woman," and she appeared in dozens of movies including *The Devil with Humphrey Bogart*, *Come September* with **Ricki Lake**, and *Believe and Be* with **Val Kilmer**. Of her current long-running love affair, Lollrigida says recently, "We met in Monte Carlo when I was 37 and Javier was 23—he was a boy. It was as if we were struck by lightning. I have always had a weakness for younger men."

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ALEXANDER LITVINENKO 'AN OBVIOUS ENEMY'

A former Russian spy brought his work after being placed in a closet of poison suspected to be deadly radioactive thallium. Doctors say that Alexander Litvinenko, who worked for the FBI (the KGB's successor) until defecting to Britain after publicly criticizing the security agency and President Vladimir Putin, has a 50 per cent chance of survival. On the day he fell ill, Litvinenko met with an FBI agent over tea, and later with an Italian scholar who was helping him finger the FBI for the recent murder of a Russian, Anna Politkovskaya. His good friend, former KGB officer and MI6 double agent **Oleg Gordievsky**, believes the Russian poisoned Litvinenko. "He was such an obvious enemy. They have done this before."

Indeed, in 2000, Litvinenko was targeted with a train full of gas canisters, which he said he had thrown in the London house he was visiting. Scotland Yard is investigating the poisoning, and their findings could be a blow to relations between the U.K. and Russia, especially if the Russian is suspected of a role.

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MANUEL ROSALES FINALLY, A LITTLE OPPOSITION TO CHAVEZ

Chavez has vowed to stay president of Venezuela until 2019, and until recently he looked poised to amend the Dec. 5 election and win another six years. But now, thanks to **Manuel Rosales**, governor of Bolivar state, has a credible chance of challenging Chavez. An opposition leader, Rosales has a 50 per cent support while Chavez has 42 (poll results, admittedly, very widely).

Until recently, the opposition has been fragmented and often antithetical. In coming to the fore, Rosales has called for an end to poverty with a "total call" to redistribute the nation's oil wealth to the poor. Meanwhile, Chavez is facing criticism over his provision of oil to foreign allies rather than accommodating his own people. One Rosales supporter had this advice for Chavez as he comes to Caracas last week: "Algo, aprecio a Chávez. Loosely translated, it means Chavez should lighten his burden to prepare for an unpleasant surprise. Chavez is not out of his mind. This week he optimistically warned the opposition: 'not to force me to take drastic actions because I won't hesitate to defend the sovereignty of my country'."

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MICHAEL RICHARDS PUSHES BLOW ON BRIDGE COMIC

In *Single's* Michael Richards is a mess, or just really unhappy? Probably the latter. One thing's apparent after an appearance at a Los Angeles comedy club: if you call audience members by the "m" word, the publicity may be surprisingly negative. The man who was once **Cosmo Kramer** has made bad choices before recently, including pissing up the wall in *Monty* and later making *Very Shallow* a star. Last week, he appeared at the Laugh Factory, trying to prove he could shock the audience with some cutting-edge comedy. Unfortunately, when some African Americans in the audience walked out, Richards tried to prove how shocking he could be by shouting things such as "Fifty years ago we'd have you upsize down with a 5-lingk up your ass!" When a website posted a video of the incident, it provoked more online discussion of Richards' outburst than it could have.

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JAMES GIORDANO TAKING DOWN A CASINO IN A LAPTOP

The professional gambler was unusually fond of his laptop computer, now sitting out of his sight. Except once. Last June, James Giordano (left) left it in a Long Island hotel room while he and his wife attended a wedding. Armed with a search warrant, New York City police swooped in and closed the hard drive. They were at the beginning of the end of what authorities are alleging is the biggest illicit gambling ring (the NYPD has ever announced US\$3.1 billion in bets taken since 2004. Last week, Giordano and 26 others were arrested. Giordano himself was taken in after police raided the former-fake walls of his mansion in Pace City, Fla. Also going down was **Frank Filadelfo**, identified by prosecutors as a source for the Washington Nationals baseball club and allegedly the top money-maker in a network of 2,000 brokers who took bets from thousands of gamblers. Police seized property, including Manhattan condos, a signed *Baseball* and signed autographs by Salvador Dali. Said police commissioner **Raymond Kelly**: "It's a crime for the amount of betting."

It's a crime for the amount of betting."

It's a crime for the amount of betting."

It's a crime for the amount of betting."

FOUAD SINJARA HUNTING OUT OF OPTIMISM

Lebanese member of industry **Parrot Gosselin**, 34, was diving through Beirut's rubble when he was captured by the Syrian Civil Guard. When his work was done, the prominent anti-Syrian Christian politician was dead—and Lebanon was tearing closer to sectarian chaos. The assassination will further reduce the options available to the embattled government of Prime Minister **Fouad Sinjara**. In recent weeks, Syrian-backed militia forces assigned in a bid to bring down the government. Pro-Syrian Hezbollah, a Shiite sect group and political party, has threatened to topple Sinjara, if it doesn't receive a greater role in cabinet decisions. And the loss of Gosselin will erode confidence in the government among the powerful Maronite Christians, of which Gosselin had been leader since the 1990s administration crumbled, with Hezbollah trying to get a more pro-Syrian government. In Beirut, much sectarian tension, that would threaten a unity be seen as grounds for a renewal of civil war.

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THE BACK PAGES

help
Should Dad still drive?

books
The father of James Bond

film
A stable family drama

humour
Shag! Yoda's killer mail

media
Hollywood's music moment

web
Loner husbands



You go, girl! That'll be \$300.

help

When Gerard Allen, a Yale Law School graduate, was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court

last year, he followed almost three dozen other justices. The handful of so-called justices included the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, past and present Supreme Court clerks, and other lesser-known figures of Washington power brokers. One alone, a silver-haired retired business executive from Maryland, named Wayne Caskey, asked another question: "What are your thoughts on the 57F to please gathering?" He said, "Wherever I am, one of the things I make me feel inferior." Caskey later recalled, "I said to myself, if that's what makes me inferior, then I'll follow—what a tragedy!" And what a business opportunity. At 64, Caskey has a second career as a "life coach" to precisely such often-faded-overseers. They are successful enough—yet dissatisfied enough—to hire a perfect stranger to help them mold their lives into something bigger, better, or just plain different. "An examined life is worth searching," quips Caskey, who has 58 clients. "But a fulfilled life is worth more." How much more? He charges \$250 to \$300 an hour.

In a society where self-made is an accolade, self-help a \$10 billion industry in the U.S. alone, and where television shows demonstrate how professionals can de-clutter your house, re-accept your job, and pretty much your toddler, it was perhaps inevitable that an über-expert would emerge: one to remake your life. Woody Allen had an analyst. Tony Soprano had Frasier. Now they could have a coach or a "personal change manager" to help them cope with their angst. As recently as the mid-1990s, the word "coach" only appeared in the sports pages of newspapers. Then life coaches started popping up in the



Fortune 500 firms now have them in-house. So do schools and jails. That über-expert, the life coach, is here to stay.
BY LUEZA CH. SAVAGE

media in the past few years. Today, they are regularly quoted as experts on everything from organizing your garage to "surviving the family Christmas." Private 500 companies have them: in-house, and so do some schools, colleges and prisons. The International Coach Federation, an industry association based in Kenilworth, counts 10,000 members, of which 900 are in Canada. It's growing by 200 new members each month. Coaches reached a pop culture milestone earlier this year when *The Daily Show* cracked them as **THE RAPISTS** and with your inability to ride a bike. The coaches run along as you ride

"really like a friend, who charges" and thus claims as "L.Q.S.E. 3.0." Proving that there is no such thing as bad publicity, calls to ICF headquarters tripled the next day. The movement includes everything from "executive coaches" who try to improve the performance of corporate managers to athletes in *intentional desire disorder* or driving for the promise of "personal" or "life coaching" as perhaps the most ambiguous and the most ambiguous. What is it, exactly? Not therapy, coaches are quick to note. "Therapy is about the past," explains Caskey. "Coaching is about the present and the future." Pamela Richards, a 53-year-old former community college professor and the president of the coaching federation, explains: "If you want to learn to ride a bicycle, the therapist will deal with your inability to get on the bike, the things in the past that make you fearful. A coach will tell you where to put your hands and feet, how the mechanics work. A mentor will get on the bike and show you how they did it," she continues. "A coach, once you decide to get on the bike, will run alongside you." Or, at least, a mentor, he or she will ask you a lot of questions while you try to ride. The secret is that life coaches don't actually tell you what to do or how to do it. You may be paying for it, but you're still the one who has to figure it out. "The connection is that the clients really know what they want and what they need to do to get it," says Caskey. "I don't make them do it. I don't give advice. I only have opinions but I will only give them if asked, and at all times." When he meets clients with a client, Caskey notes what he calls the "Wheel of Life." Actually, he just takes out a piece of paper in the center of a circle with the client's name. Around it are eight more circles, labeled friendship, health, physical environment, money, business/career, fun/recreation, personal growth, and significant others/love. He asks the client to rank his or her satisfaction in each area on a scale of one to 10. "I ask them what a 10 would look like in each area and how they'd get there. And someone might say one is as good as it's gonna get, and that's fine. And then we concentrate on those that are less than eight," Caskey explains. He quizzes them about their values, their goals, their purpose in life, and how they might "run yourself, not let it run you." Then he asks his clients, "What is 700 percent fun for you? What's 90 percent fun? And on down to zero—and challenges them to do everything that is not at least 70 per

cent fun. Apparently, it can be done. One client swapped a profitable job for a gig teaching English to a second language, moved over 700 km to be with her family, and hooked up with her high school sweetheart—all within six months. Another client left his job to hike the Appalachian Trail. He is still hiking. On the other hand, one CEO emerged from Caskey's coaching as a cost-cutter and laid off 10 per cent of his workforce, overruling the first layoff in his company's 100-year history. Maybe not fun, exactly, but apparently fulfilling. "It's all good because the leader who was embracing the survival of the company, he drew upon resources he didn't know he had in order to save the company through the downturn," says Caskey.

James Dubinsky, the executive vice-president of a New York City-based non-profit

ment firm where, he says, "If you fail to meet expectations you're history." He hired Caskey to help him reach his financial goals without becoming the kind of pushy salesman he found distasteful. "Sure it's worth it," Peris said of the four years of coaching. "I think I have a leg up on everyone in my office. I have someone to talk to, who understands my situation. I'm not sure my colleagues have that. They carry all their burdens inside themselves."

When Tim Fabry hired Caskey, he already knew he had to leave his job as a lobbyist for a professional association, and strike out on his own. "I was unhappy. I was in a sense of confusion. I was looking for answers. What is it that the Sean Connery character says in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, after realising that the Holy Grail exists? The character says he received 'illumination.' And that's what I was looking

for that we want to have somebody else rubber-stamp it first," says Steve Salerno, author of *360AM: How the Self-Help Movement Made Americans Deaf*.

But some people just "need a kick in the pants to get it done," says Ray Williams, an executive coach and president of the 166-member Vancouver chapter of the ICF. At 66, Williams has played a career as a former high school principal, superintendent of schools and, most recently, into the vice-presidency of Premier Career Management Group, although always managing people "better leaders."

You would think that the people who would most use a coach would be precisely those who can't afford one. But Williams says the most successful the individual, the more he or she seems to need a coach. "With respect to managerial and executive, one of the most significant problems is the problem of their ego—their inability to put aside an order to come up with solutions. They are too controlling, they'd rather be right than anything else, they feel that having other people participate in decisions is a sign of weakness," he says. "The biggest lesson for me is to be really courageous in confronting clients about what needs to be done—to the point of making getting fired over your honesty," he says.

Dubinsky says she was more motivated after setting goals with a coach. "I'm not only doing it for me when I do it, but because I told him I was going to do it. I gave him my word." Fabry said he eventually would have struck out on his own, only because "I probably would have burned out." Peris said he needed someone to help him get over "the anxiety of saying, 'heck, what happens if I don't make it?'"

It turns out he did make it. But what if he hadn't? Cleaning your desk is nice. But should everyone necessarily be encouraged to follow their dreams? Salerno says no. "Emotionally, you must someone to buy into your dream, and so give you some additional support

to go out and follow it—but it may be the last thing you need," says Salerno. But coaches say they aren't there to judge your goals, just help you achieve them. "It's totally possible that a good coach would say, 'you don't have it in you,'" says Salerno, "but I think no one would say that because they'd be killing the golden goose."

What if someone wants to quit their job to write a book, for example, but doesn't have the talent? Michienetz doesn't see a problem. "If they are as good at writing, they can go learn. They can get a ghostwriter. There are solutions. They will come from the heart when they stretch into the goal," the authors



organisation that encourages interfaith cooperation, came to Caskey with a gain in the neck, literally. "It became clear that some of the things that were causing me physical difficulty, like constant neck pain, were related to stress, which was related to work." Her doctor sent her to Caskey. Dubinsky says the coaching helped her manage stress effectively. Her problematic employees more quickly, clear her office desk, clear out a home office, buy a fancy bicycle, and occasionally go dancing. "I can turn my neck completely now," she says.

Joseph Peris hired Caskey when he was making a mid-life career change from a stringer and acquisition job at a boutique investment bank to a high end wealth manage-

ONE CLIENT SWITCHED CAREERS, MOVED 700 KM TO BE NEAR FAMILY, AND LOOKED UP HER OLD SWEETHEART—ALL IN SIX MONTHS

for when I went into this relationship."

But the question arises: couldn't they have cleared their desks, quit their jobs, or switched careers on their own? She poses the coaching phenomenon as just another self-help tool that encourages people to be more responsible for their life choices. "I think it points to a generalized disorientation among this generation, specifically the millennial babies, have to entrust their decision-making to almost anybody else besides them. We are so confident of taking responsibility for what we



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owners. Ask pizza waiters or dog walkers. Ask anyone who lives in a

trailer. Ask campers, surfers, surfers, surfers, surfers, surfers or skiers. Ask

the people who march in parades. Ask mail carriers. Ask son damage

avoiders or contact smokers. Ask catwalks floating on funny rafts.

Ask the competitors from the outdoor card-castle competition.

Ask the captain of the ferry racing yacht

rowing to shore. Ask the family floating

higher and higher in their hot air balloon. Ask

police officers. Ask pilots. Ask presidents. Ask party

planners or party crashers. Ask reservation clerks

or deep sea divers. Ask skyscraper window-washers.

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meteorologist. They will all smile knowingly and

tell you straight: You can't count on the weather,

but you can count on Corolla.



TOYOTA

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ONE THING YOU CAN COUNT ON



"THE DAILY SHOW" MOCKED LIFE COACHES AS 'REALLY LIKE A FRIEND—WHO CHARGES.' CALLS TO THE COACHING FEDERATION TRIPLED.

Another criticism about coaching is that, unlike therapy, they do not require a degree in psychology or psychiatry. Anyone can call themselves a coach. Or as *The Daily Show* segment put it, "All you need is a computer, internet access, and hardy." In response to this perception, the International Coach Federation created a certification system. A "Professional Certified Coach" must have 125 hours of training and produce a log demonstrating 750 hours of coaching experience. A "master" coach must log 2,500 coaching hours. And there is a residency requirement. Various coaching organizations focus on how to listen and self-question, or as Richard Powell, "the art of being with someone to help develop in a safe space and explore and not worry about what they say." The curriculum also includes areas such as how to "personally confront" a client who is not making progress.

The skeptics aren't more evidence. "There is no other area in life that we would invest \$100 an hour in if they can't prove that it works," says Salinas, who argues that even as corporate settings evaluations of coaching's effectiveness run on experimental measures such as improvements in "morale." Williams says that, on the contrary, results are measurable, especially in the corporate setting. "What you might measure is whether relationships have improved between manager and employee. For example, has absenteeism gone down? The biggest reason for absenteeism and lack of engagement in work is employees' relationships with their bosses." The ICF has commissioned a study by Proce-

Workbooks/Capgem to examine the returns on coaching, and hopes to have it in hand this month, says Richards.

The movement that grew out of collaboration between psychologists and financial planners now has global ambitions. It's already popular in Britain, and growing in Europe, Latin America, and elsewhere. Richards recently returned from promoting coaching to business groups in Shanghai and Seoul, and is headed next to Colombia and the Czech Republic. "It's not just about a coach getting clients, but how can we bring coaching into the world as a way of being," she enthuses. "It's a life-long endeavor and not for the faint of heart."

Not everyone is up for that kind of pace. Cassidy had a client who quit after she realized how much income she'd have to start up the business she dreamed of. Another client, who was used to coaching by customers who wanted him to change his slower management style, quit after four months. And his wife was just fine, thanks. (He lost the previous season's Williams had a client quit over "feed back" about the disrespectful way on which he was treating his employees and his wife. "He said, 'I just can't take this from you.'" Apparently coaches are also like the Almighty: they can only help those who help themselves. "Unless there is a willingness to change and a sense of agency about it," says Williams, "A coach can't do anything." Loss at \$250 to \$350 an hour. ■

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AFTER HIS CAR started "wandering," one man, 75, reluctantly quit driving. It's out of some relationships, I don't get involved places

Should Dad really still be driving?

A new guide helps families determine if those dings on the car are a sign they should step in

BY JULIA WICKERTS • A 90-year-old Califorma man was sentenced Monday to five years' probation after jury found him guilty on 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter. He had been facing up to 35 years in prison. George Weller was behind the wheel of his 1992 Buick LeSabre when it accelerated through a farmers' market in Santa Monica. Ten people died, 65 were wounded. His lawyer argued that it was a "pedal error"—Weller mistook the gas pedal for the brake.

Dr. Elizabeth Dugan, a geriatricologist and author of a new book called *The Driving Milestone: A resource guide for older drivers and their families on how to help*, says, "If you or an older loved one is fit to drive." Dugan thinks the Weller verdict is too harsh. "There isn't the place factors," she said in a recent interview. On the other hand, she's troubled by what she read in the 20-page National Safety Board report detailing Weller's history. "If you read the report carefully, you pick up things that should have caused concern," she said. "He had mobility problems. He walked with a cane. But what made me really sit up was his history of crashes in the last 10 years. There had been three."

Dugan's book lists "one or more auto accidents in the past five years" as No. 1 "red signal of risk" to watch for in an older driver. Other indicators include recent traffic tickets, police warnings, severely injured person or multiple, having friends or family say they no longer want to ride with the driver, accumulation of vehicle dents and dings, getting lost, and having other drivers honk or get annoyed.

But recognizing warning signs is the easy part. Dugan knows several colleagues are really struggling with how to talk about the

problem with their parents. "It's something you have to say out loud," she said. "You don't want your parent to become the next Santa Monica crash and yet you don't want to pull the plug too early. Stopping driving can be associated with depression and isolation." When you do initiate the conversation, be prepared for a hostile reaction, she says. "An older driver may be angry at what's perceived to be your snooping in his business." Dugan has a lawyer friend who made the mistake of aggressively arguing his case, "point counterpoint," with an in-law who resisted giving up his car. The family ended up in court.

To ease into the topic, Dugan suggests bringing up a news report of an accident involving an older person, "then raising the subject without putting the person on the defensive." If the older person lives on a budget, you might drop hints about what it costs to own a car, she says.

A 75-year-old Toronto man with Parkinson's disease remembers his own anguish over his decision to stop driving. It wasn't his doctor or neurologist or a family member who suggested it. It was two friends he'd known for over 30 years. "I knew myself I was losing it," he said. At first, when he found himself lost "in a moment's time" on the road, "everyone, including me, found this amusing," he said. "But what happened [eventually]

was when I reported that my car kept wandering, crossing the middle line. I couldn't understand it, this weaving frameless inside. It was as if I'd been drinking, and I know I hadn't been." The message he stopped "reluctantly" adding that it was a "blow to my self confidence, not being able to do the shopping, or do anything." He admits that it's cut off some relationships. "I don't get invited places."

Dr. Norman Hermann is a geriatric psychiatrist at the University of Toronto who, like other doctors in most provinces, is mandated by law to report to the Ministry of Transportation any patient he feels is at risk for collisions. "It's not the physician who decides if a license will be revoked," he explains. "It's the Ministry." Hermann is fiercely critical of the ministry's method of testing. "The re-testing that the Ministry of Transportation is really an issue," he says. "It's a right test and multiple choice test that measures older people's driver skills. I've had people with very significant memory problems who are obviously at risk for collisions who have passed those tests with flying colors." The only accurate measure of an older person's ability to drive is on the road, Hermann says. "And that's where the problems lie. There is no previous in Canada that pays for on-road driving tests." For those who are willing to pay for the test themselves, the price isn't cheap. At Driveable, for instance, one of several privately run on-road testing centers with facilities across the country, a road test costs \$495. ■



MOST IMPROVED: KEITH URBAN

When he climbed into a rented rehab hospital, the country singer considered all engagements, including those promoting his new album, *Love, Pain & the Whole Crazy Thing*, which was about to be released. An appearance at the Country Music Association awards this month would have given the album great exposure. He didn't have worried: The album debuted last week with sales of 265,000 copies, peaking at No. 3.

2006 TELECOM LAUREATE AWARDS



WMALE RIDER'S Cassidy Hargis is Mary in *The Nativity Story*, the first movie ever to premiere at the Venice...but she won't be there

First the Passion, now the Nativity

Hollywood puts the Christ back in Christmas, with a now-pregnant teen as the Virgin Mary

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

It was inevitable: After *The Passion of the Christ* proved that a non-Christian audience would pay to see a devotional movie about Jesus, someone would whisper that magic word into the ear of a Hollywood executive: "Preaching to put the Christ back in Christmas, and some cash in studio coffers." The *Nativity Story* leads the drama, and the wisdom of Mel Gibson's blood-drenched epic. After all, it's a happy tale. But under the unlikely direction of Catherine Hardwicke—first known for *Thirteen*, a harrowing take-off on *Twilight*, sex, drugs and delinquency—

But the Church, which once had to contend with the iconoclasm of Renaissance painters, isn't afraid to be too busy about who does its work in Hollywood. First it's an *Assault* on the past to anti-Semitic trappings, now a *Nativity* pregnant out of wedlock. But unlike Gibson's *Passion*, the *Nativity Story* is inoffensive and not friendly. The dialogue is in plain English, not so-called Aramaic. And there's an occasional dramatic touch—imagine *Thirteen* born Shohreh Aghdashloo (*House of Cards*, p. 24), Nazareth-born Helen Mirren (*March*, *Parade*), and Belfast-born Ciarán Hinds.

Scripted by Mike Rich (*Finding Forrester*), a Jewish Christian, *Nativity* draws from the Gospels, including to Matthew and Luke, but omits the more controversial scenes with more contemporary touches. Recasting the *Nativity* from a female perspective, the story grows from two miraculous pregnancies. The aged and barren Elizabeth (Aghdashloo) gives birth to John the Baptist, in a fairly graphic scene that may be a touch too *E.R.* for small children. And her cousin, Mary, an especially confined teenager, first has to submit to an arranged marriage with Joseph, a man she doesn't love. Then, coming home after a long visit with Elizabeth, she has to explain a highly suspicious pregnancy. Her unaccustomed company doesn't wish with

the neighbors, who are ready to stone her. But Joseph (Guatemalan-born Oscar Isaac) turns out to be a paragon of sensitivity. And on the trek to Bethlehem, the unwashed husband begins to look like the perfect guy.

As Mary, Cassidy Hargis (who's teenage punk and yet a virgin) is in an impossible role as a doe in the headlights of God's plan. As the virginal *Nativity*, Hinds seems to be a movie all his own, an old-fashioned biblical epic. The three who raise, nurture, strike an odd balance between Catholic comedy and Oriental mysticism. They're more like the three wise men, butting heads who set off as they reason like a trio of crazy, candle-making babblers.

Director Hardwicke has a feverish eye for detail and authenticity. But the film's earnest religious mission undercuts it. From the girl's betrayed opening titles to the emotionally portentous score by Canadian Michael Danna (*The Secret Heart*), the *Nativity Story* strikes a disconcerting balance between its naivete and conviction. And in purely dramatic terms, the story of Christ's birth is just as compelling as his crucifixion. No doubt, the movie will inspire, comfort and even move a faithful, perhaps a million numbers to make it as massive a hit as *The Passion*. But put on a child's screen and delight adults, a religious movie could turn out to be the unaccustomed. And on that count, the *Nativity Story*, an article of faith gift wrapped by Hollywood, fails to deliver. ■



WE'RE STALKING ELLEN BARKIN

The *Sex of Love* star was dining in New York's Waverly last week at the same time that her ex, *Reverend* chief Ronald Peltz, was there. Barkin and Peltz had a rocky recent split, purchased by *Reverend* chief of US\$1 million in Peltz's best place. When he approached her of the Waverly, Peltz, Barkin found a glass of water in his face and yelled, "We broke!" Peltz's ex-wife, Peltz later indicated he was nearby on his way to the men's room.

The 2006 Hall of Fame Laureate Inductees

INDUCTEE 1: ROBERT L. BATES



Robert L. Bates

INDUCTEE 2: ROBERT L. BATES



Robert L. Bates

INDUCTEE 3: ROBERT L. BATES



Robert L. Bates

INDUCTEE 4: ROBERT L. BATES



Robert L. Bates

INDUCTEE 5: ROBERT L. BATES



Robert L. Bates

REPORT: 2nd Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies & Gala Dinner

On October 16th, Canada's telecommunications industry honoured the career achievements of six great pioneers and leaders at the sold-out 2006 Telecom Laureate Awards at The Carlton in Toronto. These sheroes of industry were inducted into Canada's Telecommunications Hall of Fame as the Laureate Class of 2006, joining nine other Laureates from our inaugural Class of 2005. Take a virtual tour of Canada's Telecommunications Hall of Fame at www.telecomhall.ca to learn more about historical greats Alexander Graham Bell and Reginald Fessenden and contemporary icons Sir Terence Matthews and Ted Rogers.

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SACHA BARON COHEN in *Borat*: The most famous routine in the movie, a nude wrestling scene, goes on for over 10 minutes

How long until the audience snaps?

Movies like 'Borat' and TV shows like 'Family Guy' torment us with jokes that go on forever

BY JAMIE S. McMINN • *Borat*, the most hated movie in America, runs only 116 minutes. But it would be even shorter than that if the jokes were of a normal length. Instead, so-called Sacha Baron Cohen and director Larry Charles (the movie with scenes that go on and on and on, longer than anyone in the audience might be expected to tolerate). That isn't just padding; it's a comedy technique that Cohen and Charles use deliberately exploiting Canadian comic Mike Myers (he called it "Comedy Torture"—tormenting the audience by doing a joke over and over again, until they finally laugh just to make it stop. And Mike Myers form of torture, it seems to be more popular than ever these days.

The theory behind Comedy Torture is pretty simple: while the audience will not laugh until a joke starts going on too long, they'll start laughing again as it keeps going even longer. The most famous routine in *Borat*, a nude wrestling scene, starts out as a relatively straightforward joke and then keeps going for over 10 minutes, getting laughs from the audience's sheer discomfort at watching this thing far too long. Larry David's show *Curb in the Hat* does the same thing, with Charles co-producers, always lets every dialogue exchange run too long, no matter how uncomfortable it people get. The documentary *The Arsenio Show* is only a contest to see which comedian can take the longest to tell the same joke. And *The Simpsons*, the longest running television comedy of our time, has done as much as any show to popularize Comedy Torture, one after another scenes last Saturday (led by Rodney Dangerfield) getting hit with rules over and over again.

The deliberately overlong joke was once

an obscure form of comedy, known more to comedians than to the general public. The underground comedian Andy Kaufman used to do it, but he had no audience by deliberately taking minutes or even hours over a joke (even a non-joke, like sending *The Great Gatsby* for the entire evening), but when he performed on a mainstream television show like *Star Trek*, he had to come to a halt and tell regular-length jokes. But now it's the mainstream movies and TV shows that get the most mileage out of jokes that never end. *Simpsons* writer/producer Mike Reiss (and with *Grounds for Greatness*) says that "the prolonged joke works because, like many jokes, it defies expectations. The joke goes on way past the point where it should."

Many of the jokes on *Family Guy*, the Fox network's popular much-maligned animated sitcom, are built around that built-in rule: take an uncompleted joke and keep doing it over and over until people laugh in their spite that it won't stop. The first episode on its most recent DVD has a scene with a gag about Dennis the Menace (Bubbling his legs while he makes a videotape). The gag goes on for three minutes of the episode's 22-minute length. On the side, co-writer, the producers proudly admit that this is the longest joke they've done so far.

Not that long, but it is in themselves a re-

cent invention. Back in 1968, Cohen's idol, Peter Sellers, spent the whole movie *The Party* doing long, drawn-out physical comedy routines, including taking five minutes to feed a bird. But those gag writers intended to make the audience impatient, even though they do. They were based on the work of comedians like the French acrobatienne Jacques Tati, who believed in a gradual buildup of funny moments instead of quick punchlines.

Now the long joke is ironic: we're supposed to be aware that movies like *Borat* or shows like *Family Guy* are deliberately testing our patience, trying to see how much repetition we can stand. You could argue that people laugh at these jokes, in part, to demonstrate they're on the track of the creation we're playing.

Reiss says that there's another reason for doing these gags: "They're a perfect time." The rule came into existence in the writing room by executive producer Al Jean, "mainly because the episode was 15 seconds too long." In an interview with *U2* on *Family Guy*, writer Seth MacFarlane admitted much the same thing about his use of Comedy Torture: "It's the easiest thing in the world to write, because it knows (in another two minutes you have to go)."

So Comedy Torture may have a comedic purpose, but producers abuse it as a very precious type of filler. And maybe they have a point. After all, without Comedy Torture, *Borat* would be the most successful sit-com movie in history. ■



BAH! SPLAT! KA-POW! THE JOKER

Author Heath Ledger (also best of comic book movies) "I actually two comic book movies. They have me a class." The said comedy. Would he appear in one, any like *Cat in the Hat*? "With the lights and under the hood. I would tell about." Something changed. He said, "I'm not going to play the Joker in the Dark Knight." Ledger says he's "becoming a character with the notion of playing someone who is a stretch."

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CAESAR HAS STABBED 23 times, humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes... the new movie *The Number 23* will be released on Feb. 23

Sure you want to take Flight 23?

William Burroughs and Popeye both obsessed over it. Now Hollywood's onto it.

BY SHARONA DUBIEL • Jeff Gerlach's *Number 23* number as a child was 23, she also liked the number five because it was two plus three. Be it routine or major life events, she found 23 to have an inordinate presence. "I thought it was just me," says Gerlach, "but I'd bump into people and they'd have a 23 tattoo and so on. And I started meeting people who were also obsessed with the number and realized it was a bigger deal than my own fascination." In fact, for decades, people have been compiling "23" coincidences, synchronicities and bizarre goings on. For example, we have 46 chromosomes in our body, 23 from each parent, the earth's axis is tilted by 23.5 degrees, Caesar was born on Sept. 23 and was stabbed to death 23 times, there are 23 letters in the names Franklin Delano Roosevelt, William Jefferson Clinton and George Herbert Walker Bush, and in the footage from the Rodney King riots there's a bus sign in the background with only the number 23 on it—and that, according to "23" aficionados, doesn't even scratch the surface.

Soon, Hollywood will introduce the 23 enigmas to the masses. Jim Carrey, a 23 obsessive himself, will star in a thriller, *The Number 23*, to be released on Feb. 23. Carrey's long been fascinated by the number, even changing the name of his production company to C23. A friend pointed out all the weird instances of 23 to the actor, and afterwards he began seeing new ones himself. "For me," Carrey has said, "it culminated in the 13th floor, which is almost living without fear." He jumped at the chance to make a movie about the phenomenon, playing a dogcatcher who finds a book called *The Number 23* and comes to believe it's his life story. But Gerlach was way ahead of him, making a short film called

23 five [you plus three] years ago.

That film—made with another 23 buff, Angela Kerzhyska—follows a woman on her 23rd birthday, which at a crossroads in life, feelings alone and disconnected. When she gets stuck in an elevator with a group of weird-looking 23 enthusiasts, they convince her that everything's connected through the synchronicity of 23, and that this will be the most important birthday she'll ever have. "What we were talking about in our movie," says Kerzhyska, "is that 23 itself is a virus. It flows through people—one person starts thinking about 23 and then passes it on to someone else. The more people start talking about it and noticing 23s, the more 23s there are out there." Now, Carrey's film will infect even more people.

Even before this new movie, there have been plenty of 23s in the entertainment world—in the Popeye-maniacism of the '70s, the sicko man is often seen pondering the number 23, and *Popeye's Log* was signed in deckman block 23. More recently, in the *Seinfeld* parking garage episode, Kramer's sex conditioner is left in Purple 23, and in the movie *The Big Lebowski*, they bowl on lane 23. The number is also all over *The Matrix* and *Lost*. And then there are all the athletes who've worn the number, including Michael Jordan and David Beckham.

These are the fun 23s. What's more often

obsessed over are the examples that have led people to believe the number is a bad omen. The aspect of the 23 enigmas scored with the popular William S. Burroughs, who began keeping a scrapbook of "23" coincidences after he wrote *Ferry Captain* in *Tanger* named Clark. The captain claimed to have sailed the worst route for 13 years and never laid an anchor. That day, his ferry sank, killing all on board. Later the same day, Burroughs heard about an airplane that crashed en route from New York to Miami—it was Flight 23, piloted by a man named Clark.

Since then, there's been a running tally of disastrous events that have some (at times tenuous) link to 23—the Oklahoma bombing and the Waco tragedy were both on April 29 (fourth month plus 19th day equals 23), the Air India flight was bombed on June 23, 1985 (one plus nine plus eight plus five equals 23), the Twin Towers came down on 9/11/2001 (nine plus eleven plus two plus nine is 23), and Hurricane Katrina formed over the Bahamaian Aug. 13. There's also whole series of conspiracy writings, *The Moonman Papers*, which link the number to secret societies and other sinister forces.

But Gerlach and Kerzhyska have had only good "23" experiences. Most recently, Gerlach's three-year-old daughter has decided that 46 (23 plus 23) is her favourite number. "She can't even really count to 46," says Gerlach, "but anytime we ask her, 'How many do you want?' she says, '46.' It's crazy." ■



STOP THE PRESSES! DECANTER RECENTER

After quoting collector Olin Vanaman, who bought 25 decanters from a sale of the estate of former Delaware governor Elbert Carvel, an saying Carvel was "a big boozier," the *Delaware News Journal* reassured readers, "Carvel was not interested in reboozing to mean that the former governor was drinking it in alcohol, the common usage for the word 'boozed.' Vanaman explained, was a term he had used to describe people who collected decanters."



TROPHY HUSBANDS: (left to right) Sarah Rossdale, Gwen Stefani, Kevin Federline, Britney Spears, Dean McDermott, Tim Spelling

Kevin Federline Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha

Not since a certain Liz Taylor ex have there been so many laughable celebrity husbands

BY JAMIE A. MEERMAN When Britney Spears announced that she was divorcing her husband, Kevin Federline, the world laughed hysterically. Most of that laughter was directed at Federline, a would-be musician from Fresno, Calif. In the world of celebrity sex—the websites, magazines and tabloids show delicate dos mocking celebrities—there's no figure who gets more mockery than the untalented husband of a female star.

The mothers of the popular website Go Gossip You're It, which usually tends to making the funniest choices of famous women, regularly make an exception for Federline. The site frequently creates long or semi-outstanding analogies for Federline, portraying him as an ignorant piglet spewing off his wife's "Lipson, Nicki Minaj over there made me pose for the cover of *Elle*, *Spin* magazine, dude. She was all like, 'bitch bitch too, bitch bitch not a decorator, bitch bitch some thing some thing some thing.' Like I hate it."

Before K-Fed, Jason Statham's husband, Nick Lachey, was the most infamous example of the husband riding on his wife's coat tails, distinguished for nothing except great hair. He became a magazine cover boy because of his marriage. And since star Gwen Stefani is married to Gavin Rossdale, an obscure rock musician who appears to spend most of his time playing guitar. And the golden era of her marriage to construction worker Larry Fortensky, have there been so many laughable husbands on the fringes of show business.

Some of these husbands can ignore the mockery, but others get mad and try to get even. Federline recently took to the pages of the New York Post to defend himself against the people who make fun of him, and to

praise an ex-wife who when he'd killed himself in real movie deal. "It will be a biography of my life until I die my wife, so people will know understand what I am, I haven't done it yet. You know, I'll get a photographer in there." But that article seemed to make him only more of a figure of fun, because it was so self-deprecating, and that's what made Federline a national joke, that he seems to drink his celebrity in his own right.

Timothy Gaudin, a writer for the gossip site Gawker.com, agrees that celebrities' husbands become funny when they try to make it look as if they're more important than they are. She points to numerous press coverage of people like Rossdale, where reporters don't feel any social accomplishments to write about. "A rigorous description of the pathologist's physical attractiveness is a solid premise," she notes. "as is the fairly rarely and usually disingenuous due to a wealthy." What's entertaining about these husbands is that they never seem to understand that being handsome or carrying well doesn't make you important.

There's the same kind of attitude toward the wives of male celebrities. Anytime can come a few actors with so-called "trophy wives" who don't do much except look pretty, but that's considered normal and even kind of cool. Could explain that last week's

husbands are easier to laugh at because they're not as important. "Male celebs have always had trophy wives, but trophy husbands have traditionally been a rarer species."

Gawker.com's over-the-top, often outrageous examples of trophy husbands. Gaudin's favorite is Dean McDermott, who is married to Beverly Hills 90210 and *ER* actress Tim Spelling. McDermott was the recently deceased TV mogul Aaron Spelling, and his trophy wife when widely assumed that they'd stumbled upon an attempted to sue for money. "He's inherently ridiculous," Gaudin continues, "just because he left his wife and battles for Tim Spelling, expecting to cash in when he did hit it, and now he's stuck with poor cash out of the well." Tim, and forced to participate in her attempts to hog whatever's left of her celebrity to the highest bidder."

Are there any celebrities' husbands who can't be mocked? The only example Gaudin can come up with is Christopher Henry, who is married to Gwyneth Paltrow and Ellen Pompeo. But says he's "hard to mock for any legitimate reason, but he is easy to mock for being incredibly well looking. Otherwise, I'm drawing a blank here." And so, until our next mockable celebrity husbands post the end of Kevin Federline, who wants to know that he's more than just a punchline. "I never have read what other people think about me. Because I'm Kevin, and that's it. There's nothing that's... I believe, there we're."



TAKE IT OUTSIDE

They were talking about religion in a public chat room, but discussions were anything but polite. Paul Giddens (left) accused John James of same-sex marriage as "homosexual with children." A self-proclaimed and James challenged Giddens to settle the matter. Giddens accepted, threatening to James Giddens in a public bar with a glass of beer. Giddens is a colleague with a career in journalism, and James is a columnist. Both have been sentenced for unlawful conduct.

NO LOVE IN RELIGION CHAT ROOM

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Press 'L' for Loser: my frantic quest for PS3 glory



SCOTT FEINBERG

Depression era shantytown, but with more smiling and virgins

I laughed derisively. "Ha," I said. What a bunch of big fat losers. And the worst thing about this particular group of losers? They had all got their big fat loser asses into line before I did.

I looked at my sweating, gear in the back seat, pained for a moment and drove off, alone.

The mothers felt ashamed to enter. If Sony had handed out PS3 units based on video-game pedigree, I'd have been right at the front of the line—unless somewhere there's a dude with more elaborate hobbies.

When it comes to home video game systems, I have owned them all and played them all and coated the controllers of them all in Christmas-orange fingerprints. I had the Atari 2600—which offered games with all the quality you'd expect from one whole K of memory. I bought Intellivision and Coleco Vision, a Sega Genesis and a Sega Dreamcast, a PlayStation and then another PlayStation, a PlayStation I upped a Coke over the first. Sooner or later in this I remember my harpoons telling me something about girls, but I was too busy playing Dig Dug.

Diving headfirst into Future Shop, I reflected on all the great times I'd had growing up with my best friends Ben, Alan and John Madden. I thought back on the night two years earlier when I'd stood up outside Wal-Mart to buy a PlayStation 2. From that moment, I'd been a Sony man. I called my eyes at those who preferred the Xbox. I looked down at those who lined up last year to buy an Xbox 360, the PS3.com petition from Microsoft. Why would they waste

their time and money like that? I got home, but my mind was still back on the lineup. I'd long looked forward to Nov 17—the release date for the PS3 and the most celebratory day on the calendar. And now I was just giving up. I felt a rising within me (not the dirty kind). I quit, not to be denied?

I went online. Sure enough, Best Buy was promising to sell to sales every hour between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. Keep hope alive! I got onto the website early. Set up my mac



The lineup had the look of a Depression-era shantytown, but with more smiling and virgins

room, two laptop computers, an espresso machine and a dream (within minutes, I'd replaced the "dream" with a "bowl of Gold-an Gashman"). I found the PS3 order page and began obsessively clicking the Refresh button. Waiting for 8 o'clock.

Quantity available is: Click Quantity available is: Click Quantity available is: 9

Address is: Address is: Address is: 1

As my faithful dick took roughly an hour and a half to process, my mind grew lifeless before my eyes. I was 15 and sitting in front of the TV playing video games. I was 17 and sitting in front of the TV playing video games. I was 22 and sitting in front of the TV playing video games. And then—disgusting refresh and—oh, the PS3 was in my shopping cart! Victory and a painless weekend keeping my England safe from a menacing species of galaxy-farce fossils were mine!

Until...until...ah, God—there's too much to type the words.

I clicked the Checkout button. Another delay. I stared at the screen. Nothing. I tried staring harder. I attempted to communicate with it, first using telepathy and then using screaming. Finally, the image changed and at last I was through to the next page where

it said: "...Thanks for stopping by!" Nooooo! The website was overloaded! Instead of paying for my PS3, I was staring at a photograph of smiling women in a Best Buy shirt holding a novelty oversized question mark.

At 9 o'clock, I tried again—this time with two browser windows open on each computer, clicking fearfully from refresh buttons. I imagined that this must be what life is like in that restaurant where NORAD is. At 10 o'clock, I tried keeping a PS3 in my car

from my 9 a.m. affairs and simply checking out with it at the top of the hour. That failed. At 11 o'clock, I tried connecting myself (but I wouldn't try again, as noted). Then, finally, during the lull between the hours, I visited the Double Day Report to read the latest news about holidays, sales, and so on. I got play in PS3 lineups across America. That made me feel a little better.

At 12 o'clock, I again gave PS3 internet.com—but was later told: Payoff in my thoughts, I reached into the computer screen and used the newly activated question mark to do unspeakable things to the people who ran the Best Buy website.

Three o'clock came and I gave it one last try. Fatally, both of my laptops froze up and crashed.

At 4 p.m., I found myself in my car, driving back to Future Shop. The seats were gone. The people were gone. They were all home with their PlayStation and their seat.

I went inside. I bought an Xbox 360. It wasn't great. But it wasn't long before I was partied. ■

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1150

The Fisher family may be dead, but they're definitely not forgotten—and nothing serves as a better memorial than the new 8½-foot Under complete box set. All 61 episodes of this TV-fundamental-

following a 12-rock gap between 1956 and 1966, are Dylan's hand-written compositions. They illustrate how obsessively he worked and reworked classics including *Like a Rolling Stone*. However might be as rough as an animal's hammer, but his lyrics are polished to perfection. *Barbara Thible*

change

There are also moving moments about the making of the show and the lasting impact of a series that sociopolitically forced accord with mortality. But the most compelling reason to lay down *True* for the air is the chance to spend more time with the Fishers—a family so deliciously messed up it makes your foul bones. *Shameless* **Danny**

RESUMEN

Reading, Bob Dylan might be the best way to understand the notoriously elusive musician. The highlights of an exhibition at New York City's Morgan Library, which tracks his evolution from

1940-1941

[illegible]

casualty

to the best
correct, superior
otherwise, so
leased this year
Agnor & Perry

winning the Internet, science, politics, "poorly and ineptly" of wine (103 pages). Fortunately, this is the third edition of the *Oxford Companion to Wine* (not the first), so it is wonderful that Robert Rutherford, the new wine writer, is again at the helm, overseeing 3,000+ entries. Four hundred are new, reflecting the influence of globalization, the Internet, technological advances in production vineiculture, and the encouragement of ubiquitous "cruzer" labels. The latter can be blamed by anyone in an apt mood (600,000+ of German speaking visitors) as of writing. Also, the *Oxford Companion* publishes about "words" versus "speech." There's also no change of fodder for oenophile one-upmanship: the properties for "plastic" (for instance), "synthetic" (closures) "Where the book needs, however, is in telling the story of wine in a manner that will appeal to even the one wine drinker. Even just March's offer to women's history, wine in English literature, and Louis Pasteur's legacy to winemakers. There are some wine surprises as well, such as (inclusion) of former Soviet Union producer Mikhail Gorbachev as a "debtor" of foreign wine. The book is a well thought-out, intelligent industry and food quality courses expecting wine to the Soviet Union to better their quality for more discerning markets. All in all, reader-friendly down to the pale impenetrable recent colors used on pages; it's dismissed in blood, nearly with incoherent and naive influence. Amy Kreitzer

1



511

No new director swamillionaire Pedro Almodóvar. In *Volver*, more sexual power, superstardom, yet this is no

the brilliant concept behind the advent calendar available through christmascalendar.com a gift is delivered for each day of December until Christmas Eve. The selection items are "curated" by designers Tobias Wong and Josef Lepage of Montreal's Les Commisseries, so quality and originality are assured. Just fork over US\$1,366 and wait for the postman to ring. **Ann Krigstein**

[illegible]

Thirteen Fifteen Fifty (the book *and the use of the popular music with the same name) is an encyclopedia of "792 things we love to hate (and hate to love)" about TV. On one page, authors Tara Ariano and Sarah Bunting break down why you love *The Sopranos*' Christopher Moltisano even though he's "brutal, ugly, Jersey-bro-dog" and give a curse to Chungking, to the source "how the black-leonard screens on all treatments of the *Law & Order* franchise." It's a hilarious, no-ragis read that puts into words all the feelings, being things you've never said about TV. *Shanda Dwyer**

[illegible]

CHARLES JOHN WATSON

1954-2006

A champion breeder who named every one of his cattle, he loved the farm, even if 'he was not a dude'

Charles John Watson was born on Feb. 18, 1954. His father, Charles Sr., was the fourth in a string of Charles Watson born into the rolling farmlands of southwest on Ontario. Though his son Charles Jr.—who also answered to C.J.—was born in Toronto, as the fifth Charles of the Watson clan he would feel the silhouette of his forebears' farming roots.

When he turned eight, Charles Jr. and his younger sister, Shirley, moved with their father and mother, Ethel, seeking out a model home on a development run by his father that would become modern Brimington, Ont. The younger Charles grew up in a town built largely by his father, who had left the farm to become a shrewd businessman, raising golf courses and malls rather than cattle. Still, when Charles Sr. named the streets of Brimington's main drag, he called one Charles Avenue for his favoured breed of French-impregnated white cattle. Each summer, Charles Jr. left for Deseronto, Ont., the village where the Watsons still run the farm where he fell in love with cattle.

Although as a young man he spent a year at Wilfrid Laurier University studying business, Charles Jr. left at 20, moving into the country home his grandfather built to work the family farm—now called Wat-Cha—with his black-trimmed white bumps, love and bumps. As the son of a wealthy man, he could have chosen any life, but the farm, however, he was treated just as any other employee, working as hard as the men who were paid to be there.

He was fair, logical, accessible and committed to great country living. When, one summer, his father asked that he work in town, Charles Jr. lasted a week. As a bachelor, Charles Jr. "was good to look at, tall, thin, had hair that was a little shaggy, a moustache—but very good looking," recalls one family member. Still, "he wasn't a dude—he wasn't the kind of guy who would even wear a cowboy hat," says Neil Gillies, who once consulted for Charles Jr. At 25, while attending a cattle fair out West, he met Laurel, a Calgary woman then working on her father's cattle breeding publication. They married a year after they met.

The young couple's early life together was scarred by tragedy: their first child, daughter Cheyenne, died soon after being born on Nov. 23, 1979—a date Charles Jr. would mark each year after. But two healthy children followed—first a second daughter, Cora, then

a son, Charles. Meanwhile, cattle farming remained his all-consuming passion. "Having all those cows was like having several hundred puppy dogs," says his daughter, Cora, now 25. Charles Jr. "named each and every one of them. He loved them and talked to them and treated them like they had their own personalities."

Charles Jr.'s success as a cattle breeder had much to do with the "lucky eye" he inherited from his father. "He was able to find a live breed in the rough better than anybody I ever met," says Wayne Burgess, who met Charles Jr. when they were both young farmers. Charles Jr. spent hours watching his cattle, selecting those with the best genes. "I'd just go to the barn, in the summer, in the evenings, [and watch]," says Laurie Fisher, Charles's girlfriend after his separation from Laurel.

Charles Jr. liked nothing better than to hit the agricultural fairs circuit. "He lived for the show ring," says Scott Bohren, 22, his herdsman for the last two years. Charles Jr. would take him to shows, along with Wayne Burgess. "It's been said we are pretty much like brothers," says Wayne. They attended up to a dozen shows a year—Ladbroke, Hiram and the Toronto Royal Winter Fair were among their favourites. But nothing topped the annual Canadian Watson Agribition in Regina, where for decades Charles Jr. was one of the few Ontario farmers who showed up. "He loved the competition, and the camaraderie between breeders," says Burgess. Agribition had been good to him over the years, especially in 2005, when his prize of \$200,000, the one he named Wat-Cha, won in Degree, won both Grand Champion Bull and Show Bull of the Year. "We celebrated a lot!" recalls Bohren, "every year, cocktails were poured."

Last Saturday, Charles Jr. and Laurie flew into Regina for Agribition. The cattle arrived, as did Wayne and Scott. On Sunday they were busy setting and catching up. Some time on the evening of Nov. 19, 2006, Charles Jr. went out walking. His body was found before midnight on a alley between the Agribition building and barn, he had apparently been struck by a car. Charles Jr. was pronounced dead at Trauma Hospital, minutes before the first day of Agribition, at age 52. To honour him, Charles breeders will wear black ribbons. In Charles Jr.'s place, Wayne will show his cattle. "I've helped him for a lot of years. I'll do it one more time," he says.

BY GARY GELLS AND MICHAEL KOHLER

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